

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

*(East Dean, Gloucester, Lydney, Newent & West Dean
Rural Districts)*



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.(Bristol),

M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.),

M.F.C.M. (R.Cs.P., U.K.)

for the Year

1971

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Published by
THE WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT
(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH) COMMITTEE

Printed by
Osbourne (Printers) Ltd., Gloucester

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THE WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED
DISTRICTS (MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH) JOINT COMMITTEE

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To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1971. This Report is a Statutory requirement of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, by which it is necessary for me to include information supplied to me by the Public Health Inspectors. I include their reports as supplied together with reports from the Surveyors and Housing Officers, which make the Report more complete.

The Gloucester Rural District rejoined the West Gloucestershire United District from the 1st June, for the employment of a Medical Officer of Health following the retirement of Dr. Stephen Knight. Although this addition was made in the face of impending reorganisation of Local Government and of the Health Services, I wish that the addition had been made years previously. The first Medical Officer of Health was employed for the West Gloucestershire Area from 1912 until his death in 1936.

The Vital Statistics are based on figures supplied by the Registrar General. Care has been taken, as in previous years, not to calculate rates based on small figures, these have what is called a "spurious veracity" and are apt to be misleading.

The table of causes of death is according to the Code of the International Classification; omission of a code denotes that there were no deaths from this cause. The pattern of causes of death follows that of the Country as a whole.

Drug abuse has acquired a fascination and there is no shortage of persons who have rushed forward to be the fountain heads of knowledge on the subject. In my Area the police have been particularly well informed and have dealt with the problem admirably.

The heroin type of addiction never flourished here and has been reduced nationally, not only by reducing illegal sale and by dealing with addicts, but more especially by general dissemination of knowledge, that young people have the good sense to use, that it is a thoroughly unglamorous and dangerous vice.

In the case of cannabis, however, the voice of authority quavers, young people have no clear lead; but it was proscribed in 1931 by international agreement largely at the behest of the Egyptian Government, which ascribed many cases of mental deterioration to its continued use.

Reduction in the taking of some drugs such as methedrine, has lessened by reduced manufacture following realisation that such drugs are not really necessary as medicines.

The increased use of LSD is a matter of concern, as it is relatively easily manufactured and one ounce is enough for 300,000 "trips."

At present, however, alcoholism is a far greater problem, and in this Country about 500,000 people are so addicted that they are ill and cannot, without help free themselves. Likewise the harm done to the health of so many people by cigarette smoking far exceeds that done by drugs.

The health of the people has been good, there were no serious epidemics, only those of childhood ailments.

It has been a time of peace and comparative plenty. It has been a safe time and place in which to live; delinquency and violence being low.

This state of affairs depends on the good management of the Country and the labour of its people. The freedom from delinquency depends so much upon the mother's constant love for her infant, and the example given by the parents to the young child in an unbroken home.

That overpopulation of the world is becoming an urgent problem is a commonplace statement today; it has been called the last great epidemic. There are those who bid the people of this Country to commit a slow suicide by the restriction of families to two children per married couple. But overbreeding is used in many parts of the world as a means of national, racial or sectarian aggression. An internationally agreed average rate of increase of peoples of three children per married couple would probably enable humanity to increase at the same rate that it should be possible to increase the food productivity of the Earth. The international control of population growth may appear hopeless to achieve but some such precept is essential or overpopulation will lead to war, famine or even pestilence.

Generally I consider the proposed integration of the Health Services a good thing. The importance of the Medical Officer of Health has been reduced by the conquest of infectious disease, but his position has been eroded and undermined in many ways. For instance, as Medical Officer of Health of more of Severnside than any other, I find myself excluded from the Severnside Advisory Committee on Environmental Pollution.

The Report shows the care being taken by the Inspectors in protecting the public. It gives details of the improvement in housing conditions, both the renovation of old houses and the building of new ones, but the lists of applicants for Council house accommodation remains large.

I am grateful to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your co-operation and understanding. I thank the Public Health Inspectors for their co-operation during the year. I have also to thank the Printers for their care and my Clerk, Miss Eleanor M. H. Hughes, for her careful work in assisting me to compile this Report and for her accurate work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates

				<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
England and Wales	..	..		16.0	11.6
Gloucestershire	..	..	..	16.2	10.3
West Glos. Area	..	..	..	16.2 (17.1)	11.6 (11.9)
East Dean	..	..	..	16.4 (17.1)	12.0 (11.9)
Gloucester R.D.	..	..	..	16.3 (16.8)	11.0 (11.7)
Lydney R.D.	..	..	..	16.5 (18.8)	10.3 (11.3)
Newent R.D.	..	..	..	15.0 (16.5)	11.3 (10.6)
West Dean	..	..	..	15.7 (16.3)	13.7 (13.3)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population; the Death Rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the adjusted rates which are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General.

There were no deaths associated with childbirth.

There were 25 deaths during the first year of life (16 males and 9 females); of these 13 were during the first week, 7 were from the end of the first week to the end of the fourth week and 5 were from the end of the fourth week to the end of the first year.

Number of Births and Deaths

			<i>Estimated Population (mid 1971)</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Excess of Births over Deaths</i>
East Dean	..	..	21,280	350	255	95
Gloucester R.D.	..	..	37,600	614	415	199
Lydney R.D.	..	..	15,790	261	161	100
Newent R.D.	..	..	9,360	140	105	35
West Dean	..	..	17,840	280	247	33
Total Area	..	..	101,870	1,645	1,183	462

Chief Causes of Death

				<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Percentage of total Deaths</i>
Ischaemic heart disease	..	..		270	22.8
Other heart disease	..	..		86	7.3
Other circulatory disease	..	..		79	6.7
Cerebrovascular disease	..	..		173	14.6
Malignant disease	..	..		237	20.0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	94	10.0
Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..		56	4.7
Accidents	..	..	..	33	2.8

Code	CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Area		
		Total	Male	F
B4	Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	—	
B5,6 (1)	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	3	
B18	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	
B19 (1)	Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	1	
B19 (2)	Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus.....	9	7	
B19 (3)	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	25	15	
B19 (4)	Malignant neoplasm, intestine	44	19	
B19 (5)	Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	—	
B19 (6)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	54	50	
B19 (7)	Malignant neoplasm, breast	16	—	
B19 (8)	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5		
B19 (9)	Malignant neoplasm, prostate	11	11	
B19 (10)	Leukaemia	7	4	
B19 (11)	Other malignant neoplasms	64	34	
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	1	
B21	Diabetes mellitus	12	5	
B23	Anaemias	1	—	
B46 (1)	Other endocrine etc. diseases	7	—	
B46 (2)	Other diseases of blood, etc.	1	1	
B46 (4)	Multiple sclerosis	1	1	
B24	Meningitis	1	1	
B46 (5)	Other diseases of nervous system	9	6	
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	15	9	
B27	Hypertensive disease	21	11	
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	270	159	
B29	Other forms of heart disease	71	24	
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	173	66	
B46 (6)	Other diseases of circulatory system	58	31	
B31	Influenza	4	2	
B32	Pneumonia	94	42	
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and emphysema	56	49	
B33 (2)	Asthma	2	1	
B46 (7)	Other diseases of respiratory system	12	7	
B34	Peptic ulcer	15	11	
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	5	2	
B46 (8)	Other disease of digestive system	18	12	
B38	Nephritis and nephrosis	11	7	
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	4	
B46 (9)	Other diseases, genito-urinary system	10	6	
B46 (10)	Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	1	1	
B46 (11)	Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	2	—	
B42	Congenital anomalies	6	3	
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	10	5	
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	4	3	
BE45	Symptoms and ill defined conditions	7	1	
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	13	10	
BE48	All other accidents	20	12	
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	4	2	
BE50	All other external causes	1	—	
	TOTALS	1,183	639	

East Dean		Gloucester		Lydney		Newent		West Dean	
Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	2	1	3	1	—	—	1	—
4	1	4	3	4	1	2	—	1	5
4	5	7	10	4	5	3	2	1	3
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	2	16	1	2	1	1	—	12	—
—	7	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	3
—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
1	—	5	—	3	—	—	—	2	—
1	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
8	5	13	13	3	5	3	4	7	3
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	1	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	1	—	4	—	1	—	1	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
—	2	4	2	1	1	1	—	3	1
3	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	4	3
27	27	61	35	24	18	18	14	29	17
5	8	9	15	5	9	—	1	5	14
13	23	23	30	9	13	5	10	16	31
6	4	8	10	7	2	4	5	6	6
1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
7	11	20	26	4	5	2	4	9	6
11	4	13	3	4	—	7	—	14	—
—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
2	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	3	2
—	1	7	2	1	—	1	—	2	1
—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—
4	2	5	2	—	1	—	1	3	—
1	—	4	2	—	1	1	—	1	1
2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1	1	3	—	1	—	—	2	1	1
—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	1
—	3	1	—	2	1	—	—	2	1
—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
—	2	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	—
1	—	5	3	1	—	2	—	1	—
5	1	2	2	4	2	—	—	1	3
2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
137	118	226	189	89	72	56	49	131	116

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table of corrected notifications

	East Dean	Glou- cester	Lydney	Newent	West Dean
Measles	380	240	30	303	349
Scarlet fever	2	15	1	1	3
Food Poisoning	—	3	4	—	—
Whooping cough	9	8	—	14	2
Infective jaundice	1	5	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—
Tetanus	2	—	—	—	—

Measles

There were epidemics in all the Districts, except that of Lydney, during the first quarter ending in the second quarter. In the case of the Lydney Rural District there had been an epidemic the previous year, and in the case of the Newent Rural District the severity of the epidemic was probably related to the comparatively low state of immunisation.

In my Area, excluding the Gloucester Rural District, there were four cases in children who had been immunised and who developed the disease, one of which was known to have been very mild. A few cases had been immunised after infection.

The epidemic was relatively free from complications and no case was known to have been admitted to hospital.

Scarlet Fever

There were only twenty-two notifications, more in the Churchdown Parish than elsewhere but forming no epidemic.

Whooping Cough .

Thirty-three cases were notified, fifteen of these had been immunised, but generally immunisation appears to make the disease milder and less definitely diagnosable.

Six cases were in children under one year, when the disease is most dangerous.

Infective Jaundice

There were a few cases in the Churchdown, Ruardean and Coleford Parishes and were mostly in young adults.

Tetanus

Two cases were notified during the year. One a lady of 84 who had a cut of her forehead indoors, and who five days later developed tetanus and died.

The other case was in a girl of fourteen, who was bitten by a dog and developed the disease 15 days later. Although she had not been fully immunised she had had one preventive injection. The disease was mild and she quickly recovered.

Scabies

There were a small number of exclusions from school in the Gloucester Rural District because of this infestation.

Tuberculosis

Four people died of this disease during the year, the ages being, men of 63, 67 and 76 and a woman of 70.
Notifications during the year:

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	
East Dean	2	—	—	—	2
Gloucester	2	2	—	—	4
Lydney	3	—	1	—	4
Newent	—	—	—	—	—
West Dean	2	1	—	—	3
Totals	9	3	1	—	13

The ages of the pulmonary cases were: one in the 'teens, one in the twenties, one in the thirties, two in the fifties, three in the sixties, two in the seventies and one in the eighties. The non-pulmonary case was of infected cervical glands in a boy. This is now a rare condition but used to be common, being from infected milk. In this case the mother was not aware that the boy had had any raw milk.

The numbers of cases on the Registers at the end of the year were as follows:

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	
East Dean	24	6	3	6	39
Gloucester	32	29	5	15	81
Lydney	19	10	2	3	34
Newent	7	2	0	1	10
West Dean	16	15	9	2	42
Totals	98	62	19	27	206

The Registers continued to be revised and in the Gloucester Rural District it was possible to reduce the total from 200 to 81, largely by the transfer of the names of cases living in Gloucester City.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued to visit the three towns of the Forest Area at four weekly intervals.

No case of active pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered.

The Unit is available to the residents of the Gloucester Rural District weekly.

The following is a summary of the work:

Number attended			Male	Female	Total	Abnormalities found
Cinderford	.....	.....	93	166	259	—
Coleford	.....	.....	98	171	269	5
Lydney	.....	.....	181	242	423	4

Food Poisoning—Salmonella Infections

All the food poisoning cases which were notified were of Salmonella infections.

There was a case of *S. typhimurium*, 'phage type U218 infection in May in the Lydney Rural District. This was an isolated case. Unfortunately the man who was ill was drinking untreated milk, from the same source that caused the small epidemic last year. The infection could have been contracted otherwise.

One case of *S. typhimurium* infection was notified in the Gloucester Rural District in May: this was one of a large outbreak outside the Rural District.

Two cases of *S. typhimurium*, 'phage type U129 arose in June in the Gloucester Rural District. One, a child, had come back from Ibiza with the infection and her brother developed it, probably by contagion from her, two weeks after return. A man in Lydney was found to have a Salmonella infection of the same 'phage type U129 on return from Ibiza in September.

There was a case of *S. typhimurium* U129 in a man in Lydney in September and there were two associated cases, probably caught by contagion or from food handled by the first case. There was one case of untypable Salmonella in the West Dean Rural District in August.

In August I received notifications of three cases of food poisoning in a village in the Lydney Rural District. They were all on the milk round of a farmer who sold untreated milk. They had diarrhoea which was quite severe, and on examination their excreta showed *S. dublin*. This organism was isolated from the milk filters at the dairy. The Veterinary Investigation Service examined the herd of 42 cows and only one was found to be excreting *S. dublin*. A Regulation 20 Notice under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959 was served on the farmer on the 18th August, instructing him to have his milk heat treated, and this was withdrawn on the 7th September, when confirmation was received that further filters were free from Salmonella infection. The farmer continued to offer pasteurised milk as an alternative to raw milk. The standard of dairy cleanliness at the farm is known to be consistently high.

This outbreak illustrates that the consumption of raw milk is outdated; in spite of all the care a farmer might take, infection can penetrate a herd and appear in the milk. The source of these infections is most likely to be imported feeding stuffs.

Two cases of *S. agona* infection with diarrhoea occurred in the Newent Rural District in August. No source was found.

An isolated case of *S. derby* occurred in the Gloucester Rural District in a child with persistent diarrhoea, in October.

Virus Survey

This Survey was instigated by the County Medical Officer of Health, whereby selected practitioners submitted specimens for examination by the Public Health Laboratory for viruses. In this way a great deal should be learnt of the incidence of viruses of value to medical practice, and to the health of the community.

Immunisation

Of the figures supplied to me by the County Health Department, the most useful were those that related to children at school entry, i.e. those born in 1967. These show over 90 per cent of children protected against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis, and lower percentages against smallpox and measles.

The following table of percentages for each of the Rural Districts is interesting:—

	East Dean	Glou- cester	Lydney	Newent	West Dean
All children	355	632	256	132	256
Percentage protected against:					
Diphtheria	91	89	93	89	94
Tetanus	91	89	93	89	94
Whooping cough	90	88	93	88	93
Poliomyelitis	92	90	94	91	93
Smallpox	37	42	40	30	45
Measles	30	29	43	20	40

Smallpox Vaccination

This has ceased to be recommended as a routine measure in early childhood.

The British public is now less likely to be exposed to infection from smallpox than at any time since the disease was first recorded in this Country. “During the past five years the smallpox eradication programme of the World Health Organisation has made remarkable progress. The area of the world in which smallpox now exists and the populations in which transmission of smallpox is still occurring has been greatly reduced”. It was fortunate that the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health could now write this.

It is now 175 years since Dr. Jenner discovered that vaccination with cowpox material produced an immunity against smallpox.

Smallpox vaccine is not, however, a cowpox vaccine but a variant of a smallpox virus. The reactions are variable and sometimes severe. Research is progressing to find a milder vaccine, and one that can be used in persons suffering from eczema.

The World Health Organisation campaign, should, in a few years, successfully eradicate smallpox from the earth, there being no animal reservoir of this disease.

Cholera

Two cases of a mild form of cholera occurred in this Country in persons who had been on holiday in Spain, where a number of cases had occurred and some had died.

“Control of this disease depends primarily on high standards of environmental and personal hygiene, on pure water supplies, on safe methods for the disposal of human excreta and on meticulous cleanliness in the handling and preparation of food and beverages.” (Part of a letter from the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health).

Persons who had been in the infected area in Spain within five days had to have an International Certificate of Vaccination against cholera or be kept under surveillance. This entailed a great deal of work chiefly by the Public Health Inspectors, as such travellers were not required, on return, to report to the health departments. Family doctors were asked to send specimens from holiday makers, who had been abroad and who had had diarrhoea, to the Public Health Laboratory.

GENERAL

Water Supplies

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplies water to the whole of the Area except Tidenham, which is supplied by the Gwent Water Board, and certain properties at Bromsberrow, Dymock and Redmarley, which receive a compensatory supply from the South Worcestershire Water Board.

The Chemist to the North West Gloucestershire Water Board sent me copies of his examinations of water as follows:—

Chemical analyses	..	..	..	..	194
Part analyses	..	..	..	..	12
Examination for chlorine content only	..				131
Bacteriological examinations:					
Before treatment	..	..	..		284
After treatment	..	..	..	..	247
From taps on supply	..	..	..		282

These figures do not include those of the Gloucester Rural District.

Mr. Henderson, the Chemist to the Board, retired at the end of the year, and I should like to pay tribute to his work as reflected by the copies of his analyses, and to the expeditious manner in which he detected anything that was not normal.

The Gwent Water Board sent me forty-one copies of bacteriological examinations of water from taps.

Berkeley and Oldbury Nuclear Power Stations

The Environmental Monitoring Reports, which are supplied to all my Councils except the Newent Rural District Council, for the area around these Stations consisted of the following items:

Gamma Radiation Dose Rates

Five hundred and thirteen readings were taken over a large area. They averaged 11.9 microroentgens per hour. Those at a half mile radius of Berkeley Station were a little more and those at the same distance from Oldbury Station were below the average.

Direct Radiation Measurements carried out around the perimeter fences of the Stations were “within acceptable limits.”

Strontium 90 Content of Milk in picocuries per gramme of calcium

Although these are given in the reports, the Strontium 90 in milk is not related to the working of these Stations. There was an increase over the globe following the nuclear weapon tests of 1960 and 1961, and now the levels are one sixth of what they were in 1964 and approach what they were before these tests.

Gamma Radiation Levels on Silt

The Tidal stretch readings averaged the same as the Background readings at 7.1 microroentgens per hour.

Radiation in Fish

This has been estimated as total Beta activity in picocuries per gramme weight and has shown no rise.

Discharge of Liquid Radioactive Waste

This has been well within the authorised limits. In the case of Berkeley, 15 curies to the 200 allowed and 43 curies as tritium to the 1,500 curies allowed, and in the case of Oldbury, 2.5 curies to the 100 curies allowed and 64.4 curies as tritium to the 2,000 curies allowed.

Smoking and Health Now

The Royal College of Physicians of London rarely publish Reports, but mention must be made of that published in January, “Smoking and Health Now.” This was a sequence to “Smoking and Health” published in 1962, and I hope it will help to rescue people from nicotine addiction that cigarette smoking is.

Nicotine is a “hard” drug, i.e. it produces withdrawal effects as does heroin. Heavy cigarette smokers normally have intense craving and withdrawal effects include depression, anxiety, irritability, restlessness, sleep disturbance, difficulty in concentration, altered time perception and gastro intestinal change, drop in blood pressure and pulse rate. Just as the craving for heroin, from an addict is relieved by another injection of the drug, so can a nicotine injection relieve these symptoms. This continued absorption is an important factor in the development of arteriosclerotic disease of the arteries throughout the body. Liability to coronary thrombosis is twice as great in cigarette smokers as in non-smokers, the arteries of the legs are sometimes attacked leading to gangrene; the death rate from strokes rises with increasing cigarette smoking.

Expert committees in many countries are all agreed that cigarette smoking is the cause of the present epidemic of cancer of the lung; cancers of the mouth, larynx, oesophagus, bladder and pancreas are more common in smokers. These cancers are due to the carcinogenic constituents of smoke rather than nicotine. Cigarette smoking is the most important predisposing cause of chronic bronchitis and

emphysema and such smokers are more liable to develop tuberculosis of the lungs than non-smokers, and healing of gastric and duodenal ulcers are delayed. Babies born of mothers who smoke cigarettes are more likely to be lost from still-birth or to die in the first few days of life.

In total, cigarette smokers are twice as likely to die in middle age as are non-smokers; a man of 35 who is an average smoker is likely to lose $5\frac{1}{2}$ years of life compared with a non-smoker.

Added to this, fires traced to smoking are responsible for great economic loss and some 100 deaths every year in Great Britain. Smokers are more prone to accidents and have impaired athletic fitness compared with non-smokers.

Smokers who stop smoking find they gain weight and for a time this may be considerable, but does not counteract the benefits otherwise gained; the risk of a coronary thrombosis steadily decreases. Non-smokers weigh on the average only one pound more than smokers. Since the publication of the 1962 Report there has been a sharp drop in the number of cigarettes smoked by men in the Social Classes, I, II and III.

Psychologically smoking is a return to mammary security, but the association with fire and adulthood enables any suspicion of this to be repressed. It is the nicotine that biochemically binds the habit to the smoker.

In this Area I do what little I can to assist the campaign against the habit, but in talking to schoolchildren I wish that more money was spent on making or revising enlightening films. Adults do not ask for talks on smoking.

Examination of Milk

Routine sampling of milk is done by the County Public Health Department's Sampling Officers, and tested at the Gloucester Public Health Laboratory; I receive copies of the reports.

Both pasteurised and untreated milk are tested by the methylene blue test for cleanliness, pasteurised milk is also tested by the phosphatase test for efficiency of treatment and untreated milk is also tested by the ring test for brucella reaction.

The number of routine samples of untreated milk taken was 367, and 112 samples were taken from Bed and Breakfast or Camp Site farms.

Only two cows were found to be infected, one was a new cow bought into a herd and one was at a farm offering "Bed and Breakfast."

Brucellosis

This has shown a dramatic decline in recent years. The Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme of April, 1967, was replaced by the Brucellosis Incentives Scheme in July, 1970.

To qualify for entry on the national register, a herd must pass three clear blood tests at four monthly intervals. Thereafter the herd attracts an incentive of 0.8p for each gallon of milk sold during the

next five years, and for a beef herd £5 per breeding cow also for five years. The Scheme was an immediate success.

I was informed of only one case in a human being, and that was in a man who was not connected with farming and whose wife normally bought only pasteurised milk, but did on occasion buy raw milk.

Salmonellosis in Cattle

One case of *Salmonella dublin* in calf was notified to me.

Hydatidosis

Further to my Report of 1970, I continued to attempt to trace back to the farms animals found on slaughter to have hydatid disease, where they must have been infested by ingesting the eggs passed by a dog harbouring the small tape worm, *Echinococcus granulosus*.

A sow at the Cinderford slaughterhouse was traced back through the Gloucester Market to Glamorgan. A heifer was traced back to Herefordshire and one to Monmouthshire.

I hope the respective dogs will be treated on the farms, so that further farm animals or human beings will not be infested by the hydatid stage of the parasite.

Anthrax Order, 1938

There were two notifications of infected farm animals under this Order.

One was a heifer in the East Dean Rural District, and the other a cow in the Gloucester Rural District.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

Several old persons were referred to me through various channels, as in need of care and attention which they were not receiving, and who were living in insanitary conditions. The Social Services Department was concerned in all these cases.

In one case only did I regard compulsory removal as necessary. This was an elderly, partially sighted man who sold his house to live in a pigscot. He flatly refused accommodation and as he was able to walk out for a meal, I considered that this was a case where application should be made by the Council to a Court. After recommending this to the Committee of the Council, and before action could be taken, he was found dead in a sudden spell of cold weather.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in any of my Districts.

Public Health Laboratories

Both Newport and Gloucester Public Health Laboratories were used and gave excellent service.

Analyst

The University of Bristol Analyst, who is the County Analyst, is the one normally used.

Estimates of Population

The estimates for the Parishes that I have given are the Census figures of 1961, with the variation of the Registrar General's estimates for mid-1971, from the Census figures of the Rural Districts of 1961, being apportioned according to the variation of the number of names on the electoral lists of each Parish from those of 1961. These are for mid-1971.

In the case of the Gloucester Rural District, the populations of the Parishes were estimated by apportioning the Registrar General's estimate for the Rural District according to the number of names on the electoral lists.

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: M. V. Lark

Vice-Chairman: M. Brain

Members (at May, 1971): Councillors F. C. Beard, G. J. Beard, H. J. Beddington, R. J. Bevan, H. C. Byett, R. E. Cadle, E. Cooke, T. C. L. Davidson, R. A. Hawkins, C. Jackson, K. W. W. Jones, G. B. Keyse, A. A. Legg, M. G. Morgan, W. Morris, K. L. Perkins, H. S. Phillips, D. R. J. Pritchard, G. M. Read, R. A. Taylor, T. E. Taylor, L. J. Tuffiey, W. Wilkins, W. Wooding and S. H. Yeatman.

Public Health Staff

Chief Public Health Inspector: A. D. Parsons, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

First Additional Public Health Inspector: B. G. H. Risbey, CERT.
S I B., A.R.S.H.

Meat Inspector: D. Brittain, M.A.M I., A.M.R.S.H.

Rodent Operator: J. Roberts.

Statistics

Population=21,280 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1971).

Area=30,078 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=7,745.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1971, was £552,075.

Product of 1p. Rate on the 31st March, 1971, was £5,369.78.

Number of Live Births=350. Number of Deaths=255.

Excess of Births over Deaths=95.

Birth Rate=16.4 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04 this gives an adjusted rate of 17.1. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.07.

Death Rate=12.0 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.99 this gives an adjusted rate of 11.9.

The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.02.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	180	150	330	8	12	20	188	162	350
Still Births	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	4
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
1-4 weeks	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
4 wks.-1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings		Properties connected to Mains Water Supply
		Houses	Caravans	
Awre	1,796	587	2	565
Blaisdon	344	85	—	71
Churcham	748	241	2	175
Cinderford	7,012	2,459	68	2,455
Drybrook	2,876	1,039	4	1,035
Huntley	552	299	1	251
Littledean	1,412	498	2	489
Longhope	1,059	388	28	355
Mitcheldean	2,015	786	3	755
Ruardean	1,233	470	16	468
Ruspidge	2,233	739	28	720
TOTALS	21,280	7,591	154	7,339

Mr. N. G. Venables, the Rating Officer, provided this table except for the population estimates.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. A. D. Parsons reports as follows:

Public Health

During 1971 work in the Public Health Department continued with great difficulty. The vacancy for a second Additional Public Health Inspector was not filled, the first Additional Public Health Inspector was absent from May to September due to illness, and the Student Public Health Inspector spent considerable time training at College. This absence of Inspectors was a heavy burden on the remaining staff in this Department. Besides, it was not until Mr. Harding joined the staff from the Surveyor's Department on 14th September, as Section Supervisor of the Sewers and Sewerage part of the work of the Public Health Department, that the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. J. A. N. Butterworth was filled. Even then Mr. Harding continued to give part-time help to the Surveyor's Department until the end of the year.

There was increased work with new and existing sewerage schemes, and also a great deal of time was spent in connection with surface water drainage problems in the District.

A monitoring system for atmospheric pollution was started in the Cinderford area in co-operation with the Public Analyst at Bristol.

Housing

Slum Clearance

As in previous years, action was taken on properties that had become vacant due to Council house allocation or were likely to

become vacant for other reasons. In the latter part of the year the Public Health Department also reported on occupied condemned properties.

A great deal of time was spent in giving advice to owners and prospective purchasers of old properties on the work required to make them fit for human habitation. During the period from May to September this duty was continued with great difficulty due to the absence of the Public Health Inspector responsible for this branch of work.

Liaison as always, continued with the Housing Department in connection with housing improvement grants and planning applications.

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1971
Part II

1.	Sections 16/17	
	(i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	14
	(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:	
	(a) the houses would not be used for human habitation	—
	(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	15
	(iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	20
	(iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	1
2.	Section 18	
	Closing orders on parts of buildings	—
3.	Section 24	
	Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	4
4.	Section 27	
	Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	6
5.	Section 28	
	Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	—
6.	Part III	
	Clearance and Re-development	—
7.	Part IV	
	Abatement of Overcrowding	—
8.	Representations made	51

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Planning Consents granted during the year by the County Planning Authority for individual caravans (temporary)		10
Applications refused		5

Sites licensed:	<i>Number of caravans</i>			
Woodview Orchard, Ruspidge	35
Wyelands, Ruardean	12
Rocklands, Longhope	25
Valley Road, Cinderford	69
Queen's Farm, Churcham	2
Sites for individual caravans	51
				<hr/> 194 <hr/>

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Six hundred and eighty-seven Land Searches were received for identification and observation; thirty-four properties required inspection.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

Category of Premises	Total Inspected	Number complying with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 applies	Number complying with Reg. 19
Catering Premises including Canteens	9	9	9	9
Grocery and Provisions Shops	13	13	13	13
Bakers	4	4	4	4
Butchers	6	6	6	6
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Sweet Shops	1	0	0	0
Licensed Premises	4	4	4	4

Regulation 16 requires the provision of a wash-hand basin and Regulation 19 requires facilities for washing food and equipment.

Complaints Regarding Food

<i>Food</i>	<i>Reason for Complaint</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Pork pies	Mould growth	Warning letter
Corned beef	Decomposed	Warning letter
Block salt	Foreign body	Warning letter
Tinned tomatoes	Insects in can	Warning letter
Pork pie	Foreign body	Warning letter
Scone	Foreign body	Warning letter

Vinegar	Insects in bottle	Referred to Public Health Inspector in whose District the vinegar had been purchased
Ox tongue	Decomposed	Warning letter
Bread	Insects	Warning letter
Frozen fruit drink	Fungal growth	Warning letter

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Distributors with premises outside the District	..	..						5

Ice-cream

Premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

For the manufacture and sale (cold mix method only was used)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
For the storage and sale (pre-packed only)						..	..	143
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	144

Slaughterhouse

There is only one slaughterhouse in the District; this is in Valley Road, Cinderford, and is privately owned.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (100 % inspected)	2,853	50	79	8,332	8,770	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	4	3	3	16	18	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	380	—	—	498	500	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.5	6.0	3.8	5.9	5.9	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.07	—
Cysticercosis	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouse

Carcase meat	3,459 lbs.
Bovine, sheep and pig livers	2,074 „
Lights	201 „
Bovine heads	185 „
Pigs heads	108 „

Food Condemned (other than at Slaughterhouse)

Meat	8 tins
Fruit	4 „
Fish	2 „

Whenever necessary, certificates were issued in respect of food voluntarily surrendered due to the failure of the refrigeration plant in shops.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Ten slaughtermen were licenced to slaughter animals for food.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises in the District and no dressed poultry was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District.

Water Act, 1945

Twenty samples of water were taken from various sources and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Gloucester.

Samples taken:

Mains supply—10 all satisfactory

Other sources—10 all unsatisfactory

The users of these unsatisfactory supplies were warned to boil the water before drinking.

Swimming Pools

There are three swimming pools in the District, one is at Abenhall Secondary School and the other two are private ones at an Hotel and at a Private School.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Three applications were made in respect of such premises which were inspected and registered accordingly.

Factories Act 1961

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1971	76
Factory premises removed from register during the year	3
Factory premises added to the register during the year ..	2
Number of premises registered at the end of the year ..	75

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	72	16	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	75	19	3	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ven- tilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate. for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	2	—

Outworkers

There were 139 outworkers employed in the carding of pins and clips by a factory outside the District. No cases of default under Section 133 or instances under Section 134 of the Act came to light.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963
Registrations and Inspections.

	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of Registered premises at end of year	Number of Registered premises receiving an inspection during year
Offices	—	42	12
Retail shops	—	118	36
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	4	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	9	2
Fuel storage depots	—	2	1
TOTAL	—	175	52

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by workplace:

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	122
Retail shops	443
Wholesale departments, warehouses ..	22
Catering establishments open to the public ..	13
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	4
TOTAL	604
Total Males	248
Total Females	356

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of refuse continued to operate satisfactorily with very few complaints being received.

The four refuse disposal sites gave very little trouble and no serious complaints were received. As in previous years, Crump-meadow refuse disposal site was available to the public for the disposal of bulky items during working hours and Saturday mornings, and a similar system operated at the other sites during working hours and by arrangement.

Street Cleansing

As in previous years, bins were replaced as and where necessary, and additional bins were supplied when requested by Parish Councils,

Preliminary meetings were held with Representatives from both District and Parish Councils to evolve a uniform method of Street

Cleansing from the various schemes suggested. It was hoped to find a suitable arrangement by the summer of 1972.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The sewerage systems and sewage plants were satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. New parts were ordered for the machinery at Soudley Sewage Disposal Works.

The new works at Longhope to serve both Mitcheldean and Longhope was officially opened in July and is operating satisfactorily.

Work was started on sewer extensions at Harrow Hill, Ruardean Hill and The Hawthorns, Drybrook. Very good progress was made on all these Schemes.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

A number of vehicles were removed by a local scrap metal dealer, on behalf of the Council, whenever vehicles were proved to be abandoned and the owners could not be found.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Number of properties in District (Non-Agricultural)	7,446
Total number of properties (including nearby properties) inspected following notification	330
Number infested by (i) Rats	204
(ii) Mice	34

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. L. A. Andrews, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed:—

Council Houses

Parish	1971		Pre-War	Post-War including 1971	Total
	Houses	O.P.B's			
Awre	—	—	—	60	60
Blaisdon	—	—	—	—	—
Churcham	—	—	—	12	12
Cinderford	14	—	80	401*	481
Drybrook	12	4	6	217†	223
Huntley	—	—	—	21	21
Littledean	25	21	—	141	141
Longhope	—	6	6	30	36
Mitcheldean	—	—	6	171	177
Ruardean	10	8	10	115	125
Ruspidge	6	—	26	122	148
TOTALS	67	39	134	1,290	1,424

*This includes one privately built house purchased by the Council.

†This includes one privately built house purchased by the Council.

Private Houses

One hundred and nine private dwellings were completed during the year, making a total of 1,416 since 1946.

Improvement Grants

During the year applications were investigated and grants were approved by the Council, as follows:—

Type of Grant						Approved in 1971	Completed in 1971
Standard	..	..	..	..	..	49	43
Discretionary	..	..	..	..	..	59	36

Applicants for Council Accommodation

The waiting list for Council accommodation at the end of the year was as follows:—

Cinderford, 297, Ruardean 42, Drybrook 135, Mitcheldean 97, Littledean 65, Churcham 15, Longhope 36, Huntley 21, Ruspidge 64 and Blakeney 87, making a total 859.

GLOUCESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: F. J. Chamberlayne

Vice-Chairman: W. G. Fear

Members (at May, 1971): Councillors S. G. Aston, J. S. Cairns Terry, C. J. De Lisle Wells, A. I. Dodsworth, T. Errington, W. Evans, P. V. Falconer, C. D. Herbert, G. Howard, C. G. Mayo, R. T. Merrett, T. Morgan, K. H. Plested, G. B. W. Savage, N. E. I. Thomas, G. K. Warren, Major P. W. Weller, F. W. Wherrett and W. J. Wickes.

Public Health Staff

Chief Public Health Inspector and Petroleum Officer: S. W. D. Harris, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector: G. G. Viggers, C.S.I.B., F.A.P.H.I., A.I.H.E.

Divisional Public Health Inspector: P. M. Jones, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.I.H.E.

Divisional Public Health Inspector: L. S. Scourfield, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Divisional Public Health Inspector: N. J. Davis, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Authorised Meat Inspector: R. C. Bullock.

Administrative Assistant: Miss J. E. C. Morgan (resigned 30.4.71).

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. B. L. Gaze.

Shorthand Typist/General Assistant: Miss S. M. Davis.

Senior General Assistant: F. Greenwood.

Rodent Operator: W. B. Newman.

Statistics

Population=37,600 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1971).

Area=67,830 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=11,716.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1971, was £1,488,698.

Product of 1p. Rate at the 31st March, 1971, was £14,395.

Number of Live Births=614. Number of Deaths=415.

Excess of Births over Deaths=199

Birth Rate=16.3 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.03 this gives an adjusted rate of 16.8. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.05.

Death Rate=11.0 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.06 this gives an adjusted rate of 11.7. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.01.

Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings		Properties connected to Mains Water Supply
		Houses	Caravans	
Arlingham	343	108	—	83
Ashleworth	327	93	3	55
Brockworth	6,082	1,193	50	1,219
Brookthorpe-w-Whaddon	330	84	—	65
Chaceley	121	39	1	27
Churchdown	9,561	2,686	3	2,656
Down				
Hatherley	431	136	—	114
Eastington	1,504	356	20	361
Elmore	264	77	—	49
Forthampton	186	55	—	41
Frampton-on Severn	1,275	232	—	193
Fretherne-w-Saul	1,051	222	—	190
Frocester	167	48	1	34
Hardwicke	926	237	12	204
Harescombe	571	76	—	43
Haresfield	340	113	—	17
Hasfield	176	46	—	32
Highnam	623	170	12	163
Hucclecote	801	239	—	232
Innsworth	1,647	431	—	428
Longford	990	240	1	227
Longney	211	71	—	49
Maisemore	461	108	—	74
Minsterworth	497	113	5	91
Moreton				
Valence	153	49	4	39
Newnham	1,384	313	3	267
Norton	340	113	—	91
Quedgeley	1,230	299	60	331
Sandhurst	391	102	70	147
Standish	413	100	2	25
Tirley	321	87	—	50
Twigworth	548	51	164	200
Upton St. Leonards	1,844	491	5	434
Westbury-on-Severn	1,654	441	2	291
Whitminster	437	110	3	101
TOTALS	37,600	9,329	421	8,623

I have apportioned the population of the Rural District to these Parishes in accordance to the size of the electoral lists.

The other information in this table was supplied by Mr. Packer.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	307	269	576	2	15	38	330	284	614
Still Births	—	6	6	1	—	1	1	6	7
Deaths of infants under 1 week	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
1-4 weeks	1	1	2	1	—	1	2	1	3
4 wks.-1 year	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. S. W. D. Harris reports as follows:—

The Department is primarily concerned with the administration of legislation designed to safeguard and improve the environment in which people live. "Environmental health" has been defined by the World Health Organisation as "the control of all those factors in man's physical environment which exercise, or may exercise, a deleterious effect on his physical development, health and survival."

The World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Public Health Administration has laid particular stress on food hygiene and housing and their importance in public health. In fact, the Committee's views on the organisation of an environmental health service are in line with present practice in the United Kingdom. A point of cardinal importance is the inter-relationship of the various aspects of environmental health work. Conservation, control of pollution, better housing and improvements in occupational hygiene are amongst the great contemporary issues and all are involved in environmental health.

The statistical matter and remarks which follow should be looked at in this context as well as within their narrower intrinsic definition. It will be noted from the following report that particular emphasis was placed during the year on food hygiene, housing and noise abatement.

In concluding these opening paragraphs, I should like to express my thanks to the Council, and my colleagues in other Departments as well as the Gloucester Public Health Laboratory and the Public Analyst for their continued support and co-operation.

Public Health Inspections of the District

A summary of the visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors is tabulated below:—

Subject	Number of Inspections	Notices Served		Defects remedied after notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses	1895	45	3	36	5
Water Supplies	81	1	—	1	—
Food Premises	288	29	—	22	—
Slaughterhouses	814	7	—	3	—
Milk and Dairies	2	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	2	—	—	—	—
Factories, etc.	106	3	—	2	—
Drainage and Sewerage	570	49	—	37	—
Atmospheric Pollution	117	18	—	15	—
Infectious Disease	56	—	—	—	—
Pests	36	5	—	2	—
Caravans	585	26	—	24	—
Noise Abatement	245	12	—	7	—
Petroleum	176	15	—	15	—
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises	110	1	—	1	—
Hairdressers	13	1	—	1	—
Health Education	39	—	—	—	—
Animal Boarding Establishments	11	2	—	2	—
Miscellaneous	497	8	—	8	—
TOTAL	5643	222	3	176	5

The table shows the inspections which were required in order to carry out the Council's duties under the various statutory provisions relating to public health.

Matters requiring attention are brought to the notice of the Department by the public, Members of the Council, Parish Councils and by Members of Parliament. In addition, many inspections, e.g. of food premises, houses and factories are necessary to comply with the law.

In spite of a large volume of work there were very few instances when it was necessary to resort to formal action. This excellent result has only been achieved after the expenditure of much time and patience by the staff, to whom my thanks are especially due.

The Department has for some years adopted a policy of advice and education rather than enforcement, and there is no doubt that the public respond favourably to this approach.

Water Supplies

Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944-1961

Water Act, 1945

Water Resources Act, 1963

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplies water to the District, and 88 per cent of the properties in it are now so supplied.

Consistently good results were shown as a result of regular chemical and bacteriological examinations of mains supplies.

During 1970 the Council approved a Scheme designed to provide Haresfield Village with a mains supply at an estimated cost of £4,722. The Scheme had been almost completed by the end of 1971 and arrangements were put in hand for the subsequent transfer of individual house connections from the existing unsatisfactory supply.

A few properties are still supplied from shallow wells and it is inevitable in such a scattered Rural District that some of these will never be provided with a mains supply. Advice regarding filtration and chlorination is given by the Department on request.

Rural Sanitation

Cleansing of Cesspools

The Council's cesspool cleansing scheme continued to operate satisfactorily and in spite of progress with main drainage there was an increased demand for this service.

This was most probably due to long periods of wet weather and also to the large number of older properties where improvement had resulted in the provision of septic tank drainage for the first time.

Public Conveniences

There are three public conveniences in the District and there is evidence that these have been greatly appreciated particularly by the travelling public. I am pleased to report that vandalism was not a problem and further consideration is being given to the provision of conveniences both at Churchdown and Brockworth.

At Arlingham a new concept in the provision of public conveniences was introduced by the Council, whereby periodic payments are made in respect of conveniences not owned by them, subject to the condition that they are available to the general public at all reasonable hours. This has proved a highly satisfactory arrangement which may well be emulated in other parishes.

Atmospheric Pollution

Clean Air Act, 1956

A considerable number of visits were necessary during the year in connection with complaints received from residents of Brockworth and Hucclecote concerning an offensive odour emanating from a large factory in that area. The continuous rehabilitation process necessary to maintain essential equipment gives rise to the emission of fume which has a characteristic odour and which many people find offensive, but is not harmful. However, it is a problem which is causing a great deal of difficulty in the firm's plants both in this Country and on the Continent, and every effort is being made to try to achieve a permanent and early solution to the problem.

Caravan Sites

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Caravan Sites Act, 1968

The Department's work in relation to caravans was dominated by three main issues:—

- (a) Fire precautions on caravan sites.
- (b) Provision of a site for gipsies under Part II of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968.
- (c) Certificated locations for touring caravans.

A review of all caravan sites and site licence conditions was carried out in relation to the provision and maintenance of adequate fire-fighting facilities. This was prompted by a fatal fire on a caravan site in a neighbouring District, and continuing attention is being given to this aspect of the Council's responsibilities.

Indiscriminate camping by gipsies and other travellers has presented problems in relation to the health and amenity of the public in this District for many years. In particular, conditions of indescribable filth were created at Pipers Grove in Highnam and on various lay-bys in the area. Many conferences and discussions were held both concerning the problem and its solution, and towards the end of the year the provision of a site under the provisions of Part II of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, was well advanced.

In so far as certificated locations for touring caravans are concerned, arrangements are made for the Council to be informed before any new location is authorised by the Caravan Club. This will enable the Council to express its views and to give advice to the mutual benefit of local residents and intending touring caravanners.

Noise Abatement

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Noise arises in this District mainly from machinery, e.g. grain-dryers, entertainment, and traffic.

The assessment of noise nuisance is difficult in view of its subjective nature and the officers have to employ a complicated system of measurement, comparison and evaluation in their investigations. The two parameters that must be monitored are the measured level of noise in perceived decibels and the duration of time the affected persons are exposed to it.

A number of investigations were carried out following complaints from residents from various parts of the District, with satisfactory results. Some problems, however, had not been capable of solution during the year and with growing public resentment of the vitiation of their environment by noise pollution, it is evident that the public health inspectors will be required to devote an increasing proportion of their time to this problem.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This important service to ratepayers has continued to operate satisfactorily, providing a free service to private domestic properties and recovering charges expended in respect of other types of premises.

The Council's sewers have been test baited for infestations in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the table below shows the results.

Warfarin resistance in rodents has not been found within the Council's area and accordingly this relatively safe poison continues to be used almost exclusively, for the control of rats and mice.

	Inspections	Treatment
Private dwellings (including Council Properties)	879	252
Farms	347	126
Business Premises	79	24
Sewers	259	3
Schools	57	16
Residential Homes	10	4
Sewage Works and Depots	64	14
Other Open Spaces	—	—
TOTAL	1695	439

Sewers	Action Taken	Result
Brockworth	Test Baited	No Treatment
Churchdown	Test Baited	No Treatment
Eastington	Test Baited	No Treatment
Frampton-on-Severn	Test Baited	No Treatment
Fretherne-with-Saul	Test Baited	No Treatment
Hucclecote	Test Baited	No Treatment
Innsworth	Test Baited	No Treatment
Longford	Test Baited	No Treatment
Maisemore	Treatment	Satisfactory
Newnham-on-Severn	Treatment	Satisfactory
Westbury-on-Severn	Treatment	Satisfactory
Upton-St.-Leonards	Test Baited	No Treatment

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-52

Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Regulation 19		Remarks
				No. to which Reg. 19 applies	No. fitted to comply	
Cafes and Canteens	71	33	71	71	71	This includes School canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops	93	91	85	79	73	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice Cream Vendors	81	68	81	—	—	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Most Ice Cream sold in the District is prepacked.
Butchers Shops	11	36	11	11	11	Six shops registered under S. 16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Sausage making.
Fishmongers	4	6	3	3	3	This includes fried and wet fish.
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2	2	These are small & only supply a small proportion to the population.
Licensed Premises	49	46	49	49	49	
Dairies	4	2	4	—	—	
Wholesale Premises (Food Manufacture)	3	8	3	3	3	Inspected under Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.
TOTAL	318	292	309	218	212	

Food Hygiene

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

Whilst relatively new Regulations with regard to Food Hygiene are helping to raise standards in premises etc. grave concern must be felt about food itself. The heavy pollution of air, sea and land on a universal basis is manifesting itself more and more in the food we

consume, in the form of chemicals, pesticides and toxic metals, and, in the case of some of the substances being isolated in food, the long term results of their effects on man are not known.

The change in our eating habits continues with the rapid growth of the vending and convenience food and deep freeze industries. Unfortunately the desire to take part in this rapid growth sector does not always result in food hygiene and handling techniques receiving the kind of attention they demand.

The question of date stamping of foods was under consideration in 1971 and was highlighted by considerable coverage in the national press and television. Many firms already practise open date stamping of foods and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have established a commission to review the matter. This is a subject which is more complex than is at first appreciated from a superficial examination, but it is hoped that ultimately a uniform coding system will emerge.

Calls have also been made for inspectors to have powers of instant closure of establishments which grossly contravene the Food Hygiene Registration. A Disqualification Order can be obtained under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, but this Section is little used as Courts are not always sympathetic.

Much concern is expressed on the practical difficulties of inspecting imported foods entering the country in sealed containers which are not opened at the docks. The only obligation upon the importer is that he undertakes not to open the container until it reaches its destination point. The port of entry notifies the inland authority but unless this is done very quickly the container may have been opened and the food distributed.

It is pleasing to note that the public are taking a greater interest in food matters and are demanding better standards. This stems from a greater awareness in their environment as a whole. As the food industry becomes more efficient, new preservation and presentation techniques are developed and the Public Health Inspector is obliged to keep pace with these developments. Greater emphasis on the bacteriological effects and chemistry of food requires that a close liaison is maintained with the Public Health Laboratory Service and Public Analyst.

Ice-Cream

During 1971, three new premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice-cream.

Slaughterhouses

The following slaughterhouses were licensed in 1971:—

1. Churchdown—Chapel Hay.
2. Wastington—Alkerton Place.
3. Westbury-on-Severn—The Flatt.
4. Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon—Brickhouse Farm.

During 1971 the number of animals slaughtered again rose significantly, however, a 100% ante and post mortem inspection service was maintained by the Department's Officers.

The incidence of disease fell compared to 1970, and this reflects a general improvement of herd health which in turn has resulted in a change in the pattern of meat inspection. With the very effective eradication schemes for conditions such as tuberculosis and swine fever more emphasis is being placed on histopathological diagnosis. The conditions which continue to account for a large amount of condemnation of meat and offal are fascioliasis, cirrhosis, abscesses, carcinoma, *ascaris lumbricoides* and acute pneumonia. However, much more attention has to be given to matters which do not manifest themselves as clearly as the aforementioned conditions. The feeding of low level antibiotics has given rise to drug resistant bacteria, particularly the enterobacteriaceal group, which includes the *Salmonella*, and this characteristic can be transferred to humans.

It is recommended that organic arsenical compounds used in the treatment of animals should not be given for 10 days before slaughter, and whilst it is unlikely that human beings would be poisoned from such meat, constant vigilance must be exercised.

The complexity of some of these developments is requiring a greater level of expertise and closer collaboration with both the pathologist and veterinary profession.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Twenty-six applications were received under the provision of the above-mentioned Act for licences to slaughter animals. These were all granted for a period of twelve months.

Knackers' Yards

1. Sandhurst—Farrans Farms.
2. Longlevens—Paygrove Farm.

These received routine inspections during the year, in collaboration with the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (100 % inspected) ..	1,800	199	118	7,281	4,145	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcases condemned ..	3	7	9	11	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	282	104	10	227	119	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.8	55.8	16.1	3.3	3.0	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	26	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.6	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

The requirement under the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969, that all meat not fit for human consumption must be sterilised, are stringently enforced in the Council's area.

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for:

(i)	All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis	11,608 lb.
(ii)	Tuberculosis	285 lb.
(iii)	Cysticercosis	68 lb.
	Total	11,961 lb.
	(or 5 tons 6 cwt. 90 lb.)	

Cysticercosis Bovis

Two infestations were found in the external masseter muscles of cattle. The carcasses were sent for refrigeration.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Condemnation of Foodstuffs

Article	Non-Preserved lb.	Preserved, Tinned, etc. lb.
Meat	11,929	9
Flour and Cereals	—	—
Vegetables	—	—
Fish	25	—
Cheese and Fats	—	—
Fruit	—	1,684
Cream and Evaporated Milk	—	—
Other	8	—
TOTAL	11,962	1,693

Health Education

Lectures on various aspects of Environmental Health have been given to schools, technical institutes, professional bodies and local organisations to meet the continuing demand for the Health Education Service offered by the Council.

There is a greater awareness amongst the general public of the environment, and considerable interest has been expressed in matters which affect the quality of life. In this sphere particularly, local interest was generated by the proposals made in the Severnside Study and its likely effect upon the area.

The Council continue to keep a close liaison with the Gloucestershire County Health Education Service and have co-operated with them in the purchase of a film on food hygiene entitled “The Clean Way.”

Housing Act, 1957

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1971

Part II

1. Sections 16/17

(i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	5
(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:	
(a) the houses would not be used for human habitation	7
(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	6
(iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	6

(iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit		1
2. Section 18		
Closing orders on parts of buildings		Nil
3. Section 24		
Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit		3
4. Section 27		
Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit		2
5. Section 28		
Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted		—
6. Part III		
Clearance and Re-development		—
7. Part IV		
Abatement of Overcrowding		—

Housing Act, 1957

In my report for 1970, I drew attention to the impetus given to the improvement of sub-standard properties by the increased grants available to house owners under the Housing Act, 1969. This trend has continued and is resulting in almost all the unoccupied unfit properties in the District being purchased for renovation. The effect is also being noticed in relation to properties which are substantially sound but which lack the standard amenities as these too are being improved to a high standard. The result of this is that the number of houses falling into the unfit category is decreasing annually.

The Housing Survey has continued and the information gathered is proving increasingly useful. Information concerning the condition of property obtained from systematic inspection enables appropriate action to be taken so that frequently, repairs can be required to be done before the house becomes suitable only for Closing or Demolition action. In some cases where several properties in the same vicinity are in one ownership, the co-operation of the owner has been obtained and all the properties brought up to standard.

The inability to rehouse families from some properties on which the Council have commenced Housing Act action is causing concern as this results in the occupiers having to remain in occupation of sub-standard houses, and the service of Closing and Demolition Orders delayed.

It is hoped that some Council houses can be made available for rehousing the more urgent cases.

In general the standard of housing in the District is satisfactory and improving yearly.

Land Charges Act, 1925 as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

1,046 searches were required and in some cases inspections of the properties were necessary.

Factories Act 1961

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	95	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	49	11	—	—
TOTAL	137	106	2	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—	—

Part VIII

Outwork

Fourteen outworkers were listed in the District during 1971. These were employed in the making of wearing apparel.

Factories Act inspections are combined where possible with visits under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, the Clean Air Act, 1956 and the Petroleum Regulations etc.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

				<i>Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</i>
Offices	..	..	..	12
Retail shops	..	..	..	86
Wholesale shops, warehouses				—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens		..		10
Fuel storage depots	..	..		2
Total				<hr/> 110 <hr/>

The working conditions of industrial workers have been controlled by the Factories Acts for many years. This control did not apply to persons working in offices, shops, and similar premises, who comprised a substantial part of the nation's working population, until the advent of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. In addition to the control of cleanliness, temperature, lighting, ventilation, and washing arrangements, the Act lays upon local authorities responsibilities for investigating and dealing with accidents arising on these premises.

Liaison is maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories and no particular difficulties were experienced in operating this Act during the year.

Petroleum Administration

Two new petroleum installations were licensed during the year. One of which is of particular interest, as the tank is of glass reinforced plastic and is believed to be the only one of its kind installed in the United Kingdom. The installation posed many new problems, particularly in relation to adequate provision for electrical earthing. Close co-operation was maintained with H.M. Inspectorate of Explosives both before and during the installation and its use is being kept under review both by this Department and the Home Office.

Several enquiries were made by garage proprietors interested in installing self-service petrol pumps, but no application for a variation in licensing conditions to permit this type of sale was received, although several installations of this type are now in operation in adjoining districts. It is clear that the high capital cost involved in the installation of the necessary equipment can only be justified where petrol sales are high. The opening of the M5 motorway has resulted in a considerable drop in the number of vehicles using the A38 both North and South of Gloucester and this must have resulted in a fall in petrol sales at the several filling stations serving this route.

There were 100 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit during 1971. Routine inspections were carried out and no major contraventions of the Council's licensing conditions were found.

Conclusion

Having dealt in this Report with environmental health in the context of the existing system of local government, it may be appropriate to consider briefly the position in the future pattern which will follow reorganisation in April, 1974.

At present local authority responsibilities for environmental health are linked with other health services. These will be transferred to Area Health Authorities from the 1st April, 1974, but the Green Paper on the Health Services is specific in its references to liaison between local authority public health inspectors and the new Authorities, thus ensuring a large measure of continuity.

The Government has allocated important functions in relation to environmental health to the new District Councils, and in the new system it will be necessary to co-ordinate effort and to co-operate with other Departments and authorities which are concerned with other aspects of the environment.

On a more global scale eminent opinion throughout the world continues to influence governments and society generally in favour of the need to conserve and improve man's environment. This is an escalating problem in view of the unchecked rise in world population and massive production of industrial pollution. In the United Kingdom local authorities have laid a firm foundation on which the new District Councils will be able to build an environmental health service geared to the needs of an increasingly demanding and sophisticated society.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. J. S. Hopkins, C.ENG., M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H., reports as follows:

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The District continued to have a weekly collection throughout and no special problems occurred.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Hardwicke and Quedgeley Scheme was substantially completed, together with minor schemes at Nupend, Eastington, Green Street, Brockworth, and surface water sewers at Churchdown. Work was commenced on the elimination of flooding from the Shorn Brook. The extension of the Longford Sewage Disposal Works was in progress for most of the year, and at the end of the year was ahead of schedule. The Longford Village Re-drainage Scheme was commenced during the last quarter of the year. Sewer connections at Bath Road, Eastington, were substantially completed.

Approval was received from the Department of the Environment for the Westbury Sewage Scheme, work upon which could not commence due to legal difficulties. Similar problems prevented work on the surface water sewer at Brockworth from commencing. Preparation proceeded for schemes for Ashleworth, Haresfield, Norton, Down Hatherley, Sandhurst, Twigworth and sewer extensions at Hardwicke.

The purchase of additional analytical equipment for the sewage laboratory at Longford, enabled an intensive investigation into trade waste discharges to commence. Exceptionally dry weather at periods in the year created discharge problems in streams with low flow characteristics.

During the year the Safety Officer satisfactorily completed a course for safety measures, and all members of staff and work force underwent a period of training and medical examination to ensure their fitness for work on sewers.

All works were inspected and safety measures instituted where necessary.

New members of staff were trained and the purchase of necessary safety equipment was completed.

HOUSING 1971

Mr. Healey of the Clerk's Department supplied me with the following figures:—

Number of New Dwellings erected during the year:—

By the Council:

Newnham (Penby Lawn)	..	..	..	..	13
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	138
By Housing Association	..	..	..	..	60
					<hr/> 211 <hr/>

Number of Dwellings under Construction at 31st December, 1971:—

By Private Enterprise 22

Number of Dwellings sold to Tenants in 1971— Nil.

Number of Dwellings owned by the Council at 31st December, 1971 2,234

Number of Applicants on Council's Housing List:—

At 31st December, 1970 540

At 31st December, 1971 590

Housing Progress:—

Number of Dwellings erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1971:—

By the Council and Local Housing Association .. 2,557

By Private Enterprise 6,817

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: A. Hudson

Vice-Chairman: E. E. Emmett

Members (at May, 1971): Councillors Miss D. M. Edmunds, Mrs. M. E. Hallworth, Mrs. A. B. Reissner, Mrs. M. E. Riches, N. H. Cooke, R. C. C. Cookman, J. H. G. Darters, M. G. Edwards, D. G. Emery, H. N. Fothergill, P. E. Goatman, H. Harley, A. S. Hinton, A. F. G. Hopes, A. P. L. James, R. Meredith, T. H. Pensom, T. L. Richards, C. R. Smith, Dr. J. A. Svendsen and T. E. Wilcox.

Public Health Staff

Public Health Inspector: R. H. Aldus, M.A.P.H.I.

Statistics

Population=15,790 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1971).

Area=24,597 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=5,270.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1971, was £533,490.

Product of 1p. Rate on the 31st March, 1971, was £5,100.

Number of Live Births=261. Number of Deaths=161.

Excess of Births over Deaths=100.

Birth Rate=16.5 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.14 this gives an adjusted rate of 18.8.

The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.18.

Death Rate=10.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.10 this gives an adjusted rate of 11.3.

The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.98.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	118	129	247	4	10	14	122	139	261
Still Births	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	2	1	3	1	—	1	3	1	4
1-4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 wks.-1 year	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply
Alvington	476	175	157
Aylburton	826	286	263*
Hewelsfield	393	160	144
Lydney	6,028	2,477	2,461
St. Briavels	1,206	482	451
Tidenham	5,947	1,358	1,336
Woolaston	914	332	309
TOTALS	15,790	5,270	5,121

*This includes 81 dwellings connected to the Aylburton Village Supply.

The figures for the number of dwellings and the connections to the Mains Water Supply were given by Mr. W. A. B. Peart, the Rating Officer.

The estimated population for Tidenham includes 928 staff and apprentices at the Army Apprentices' College at Beachley.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. R. H. Aldus reports as follows:

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1971
Part II

1. Sections 16/17	
(i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	3
(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:	
(a) the houses would not be used for human habitation	—
(b) the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	6
(iii) Houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	2
(iv) Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	5
2. Section 18	
Closing orders on parts of buildings	1
3. Section 24	
Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	4
4. Section 27	
Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	2

5.	Section 28								
	Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted								—
6.	Part III								
	Clearance and Re-development	..	..	..	..				—
7.	Part IV								
	Abatement of Overcrowding	..	..	..	..				—

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the above Act were received.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Number of Sites (in respect of which licences have been granted):

		<i>Sites for Individual Caravans</i>	<i>Permanent Residential Sites</i>	<i>Holiday Caravan Sites</i>
Alvington	..	1	—	—
Aylburton	..	—	—	—
Hewelsfield	..	2	—	—
Lydney ..	..	4	—	—
St. Briavels	..	1	—	—
Tidenham	..	1	1	1
			(50 caravans)	(3 caravans)
Woolaston	..	1	—	—
		—	—	—
		10	1	1
		—	—	—

Meat

Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering is carried out at the only licensed slaughterhouse between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in each week, and it has been possible to maintain 100 per cent inspection of all animals slaughtered.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed 100 % inspected ..	48	—	—	314	23	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	12	—	—	27	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	25.0	—	—	8.6	13.0	—

Tuberculosis: Again I am pleased to report that no carcase, part of a carcase or organ of the animals slaughtered during the year was affected by tuberculosis.

Cysticercosis: No animal was found to be infested.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

The Council in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, issued the following licences during the year:

To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs .. 5
To slaughter and stun pigs only 4

Food surrendered as unfit for human consumption:

Canned foods 16 lbs.
Carcase meat 81 lbs.
Offal 1cwt 74 lbs.
Fish—fresh 42 lbs.

In addition some 1 cwt. 6 lbs. of frozen foods were surrendered following the failures of three deep freeze cabinets.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in District ..	4,758	186
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	123	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	106	—
(ii) Mice ..	17	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	—	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	—	—
(ii) Mice ..	—	—

Fairground

Visits were made to the annual fair at Lydney, and it was found that the water supply and sanitary accommodation provided were adequate.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Category of Premises	Number	Number of Inspections	Remarks
Grocery	28	46	All are registered under Sec. 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream
Sweet Confectioners ..	13	12	
Butchers	10	13	
Fruiterers	5	7	
Fried Fish Shop ..	2	3	
Cafes	6	7	Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959
Chemists	2	2	
School Canteens ..	13	6	
Factory Canteens ..	5	4	
Licensed Premises ..	33	30	
Dairies	1	3	
TOTALS	118	133	

Milk

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Dairies not at farms	1
Distributors	26
Distributors with premises outside the District	6

Sedbury Dairies Limited:

Number of Producers: 67.

Average daily through-put of milk: 6,000 gallons.

Bottle (daily average): 45,000.

Ice-Cream

Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 16:

Premises registered:

For manufacture (cold mix method used)	..	..	2
For storage and sale (pre-packed)	..	..	60

Visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the handling of ice-cream or of the condition of the premises.

Water Samples

Twenty-nine samples taken from various sources were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

Samples taken from:

North West Gloucestershire Water Board	..	..	12
Gwent Water Board	..	..	3
Aylburton Village Supply	..	..	2
Wells	..	..	11
Borehole	..	..	1
			—
			29
			—

Public Health Act, 1936

Complaints: Fifty-six complaints were received under the above Act, seventeen of these were in respect of defective drainage systems.

Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1971:

Coastwise	Number (Motors) (Sailing)	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied
—	544	33,327	—	—

Factories Act, 1961

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority	55	30	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	19	10	—	—
TOTAL	75	41	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “cases”).

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosect'ns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	1	—

Register of Factories:

Changes during the year: added 1
removed 1

Outworkers:

Twenty-five persons were employed in the carding of pins.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Thirty-one licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.

Summary: Filling Stations	..	..	11	
Farms	..	..	8	
Factories	..	..	5	
Quarries	..	..	1	
Business Premises	..	..	6	Total 31

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

One premises was licensed for the keeping of Carbide of Calcium.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Seasonal casual gangs were employed on a few farms for black-currant and potato harvesting and temporary sanitary accommodation was provided.

Clean Air

Two applications for the heights of chimneys to be determined were received and approved.

No action was found to be necessary under the Clean Air Acts.

Food Hygiene

Market (Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

There are no market premises in the District.

Regular inspections were made of mobile shops and delivery vehicles. No action was found to be necessary under these regulations.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Two hundred and thirteen Land Searches were passed through the Public Health Department for observation, a number of which required identification and inspection.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Two premises are registered under the above Act.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing establishments in the District.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no premises in the District.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two licences were issued during the year.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No action was found to be necessary under this Act.

Game Act, 1831

One Game Dealer's Licence was granted under the above Act.

Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963

One licence authorising the keeping of a boarding establishment for animals was granted. Periodical visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the maintenance and condition of the premises.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963
Table A. Registrations.

Class of Premises	Premises Registered during the year	Registered Premises at end of year	Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	29	24
Retail Shops	3	59	54
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	4	4
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ..	—	12	12
Fuel storage depots	—	1	1

Table B. Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises: 123.

Table C. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by workplace.

Class of Workplace	Persons employed
Offices	154
Retail Shops	283
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	31
Catering establishments open to the public	60
Canteens	7
Fuel storage depots	12
Male	214
Female	333
TOTAL	547

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR’S REPORT

Mr. H. I. Spratt, C.ENG., F.I.MUN.E., M.R.T.P.I., M.R.S.H., reports as follows:—

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The disposal works at Tidenham continued to function satisfactorily, but the one operating at Alvington and Woolaston remained in a very critical situation giving anxiety every time there was a

heavy rainfall. During the year 87 new properties and 11 existing properties were connected to the sewerage systems. Samples of the effluents were taken by the Severn River and Wye River Authorities for analysis and satisfactory reports were received.

The Council instructed their Consulting Engineers to investigate and proceed with plans for enlarging the works at Alvington, and also to seek tenders for extending the sewers to the Woolaston Common area. The enlargement of the works at Alvington is essential and must be carried out at the earliest opportunity, otherwise the Council are liable to find themselves in a most embarrassing situation.

The details of the Lydney drainage scheme are still being investigated and the final plans are now being prepared, I sincerely hope that during the coming year some of this work will be out to tender. This scheme has, on several occasions, been hindered by the economic situation of the Country, but for many years I have continued to press for it and hope it will soon be started.

Further investigations were carried out into trade wastes from the various industries in the Town, and it was found that the figures quoted were being exceeded, so adequate allowances must be made for future expansion. During the year sewer extensions to drain the Industrial Estate and also the Cross Hands area were satisfactorily completed.

With the new allocations of capital expenditure, certain monies became available during the year for storm water drainage and at very short notice details were prepared for the storm water sewers at Hams Road, Lydney, and the work was put in hand immediately. To save time the tender was extended to laying a 24 inch and 30 inch culvert at Mount Pleasant, Lydney, and conditions would now appear to be favourable to proceed with the work on the Queen Street culvert. The work should go a long way in relieving certain trouble spots in the Town.

Refuse Collection

During the year I was instructed by the Public Health Committee to look into the question of improving the service for the disposal of large household articles which would not normally be collected in the household refuse. It was decided to purchase a vehicle for this work and to organise and run a monthly collection throughout the whole District. This work was put into operation and although it has only been running a short while, the opinion is that it is providing a very useful service whereby the public can dispose of chairs, furniture etc. from their households.

Bathurst Swimming Baths

It was hoped that a certain amount of money would be made available for improving the changing accommodation at the Swimming Baths, but, unfortunately, Circular 2/70 has, I feel, placed the Baths into a non-priority group and therefore no money was available for even the most modest improvements. It is hoped that as most of the work included in the first programme has now been completed, a certain allocation can be asked for in the near future.

HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. H. I. Spratt, the Engineer and Surveyor, reports as follows:

Twelve Council dwellings were completed during the year, and the total number of houses erected by the Authority by the end of the year was as follows:

Parish	1971	Pre-War and up to 1946	Post-War including 1971	Total
Alvington	—	14	47	61
Aylburton	—	8	40	48
Hewelsfield	—	6	10	16
Lydney	12	235	419	654
St. Briavels	—	8	42	50
Tidenham	—	50	191	241
Woolaston	—	12	61	73
TOTAL	12	333	810	1,143

In addition to the above, the Council own forty properties in Lydney, six in Tidenham and one in Alvington. Modernisation schemes for thirty-six of these properties have been completed, a further six have been let to tender and a scheme for a further five proposed. The Council also own six shop premises of which three are at Lydney and three in the Tidenham parish.

The improvement of pre-war houses has continued and a further twenty properties have been improved during the year.

Private Dwellings Completed During the Year

Ninety-one dwellings were built during the year bringing the number built since the war to 1,324,

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
Alvington	—	—	—
Aylburton	—	—	—
Hewelsfield	—	—	—
Lydney	18	32	—
St. Briavels	7	7	—
Tidenham	2	18	—
Woolaston	—	7	—
TOTAL	27	64	—

Improvement Grants

During the year thirty Standard Grants and eleven Discretionary Grants were approved.

Applicants for Council Accommodation

There were 233 applicants for Council houses at the end of the year.

NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: R. S. Chew

Vice-Chairman: P. Price

Members (at May, 1971): Councillors Mrs. A. E. Potts, S. J. Ayland, J. N. Boyd, J. M. Brooks, W. J. Cummins, F. Dunn, R. P. Ovington, J. M. Smith and F. A. Windsor-Clive.

Public Health Staff

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. S. Jenkinson, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer:

T. A. Chetwood.

Rodent Operator (part-time): H. P. Hyett.

Statistics

Population=9,360 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1971).

Area=41,111 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=3,384.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1971, was £216,409.

Product of 1p. Rate on the 31st March, 1971, was £2,062.32.

Number of Live Births=140. Number of Deaths=105.

Excess of Births over Deaths=35.

Birth Rate=15.0 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.10 this gives an adjusted rate of 16.5. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.03.

Death Rate=11.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.94 this gives an adjusted rate of 10.6. The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 0.92.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	72	64	136	—	4	4	72	68	140
Still Births	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 wks.-1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Population, Number of Houses, Mains Water Supply and Sewerage

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply		Properties with water closets connected to sewer
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe	
Bromsberrow	246	69	60	—	61
Corse	474	163	153	—	49
Dymock	1,285	442	385	1	80
Hartpury	783	251	230	—	21
Kempley	269	96	76	—	—
Newent	3,531	1,343	1,300	4	890
Oxenhall	252	72	54	—	—
Pauntley	163	54	28	—	—
Redmarley	756	272	249	—	17
Rudford	250	89	69	—	—
Staunton	376	133	123	—	—
Taynton	410	160	127	—	—
Tibberton	359	158	142	—	113
Upleadon	206	82	70	—	—
TOTALS	9,360	3,384	3,066	5	1,231

This table includes 47 caravan sites assessed separately.

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplies all the properties on the mains except the following:

The South West Worcestershire Water Board supplies the 60 properties served at Bromsberrow, 52 properties at Dymock and 20 at Redmarley.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S
REPORT

Mr. H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows:
Public Health Section
Housing

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1971
Part II

1. Sections 16/17
- (i) Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made

(ii) Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:

(a)	the houses would not be used for human habitation	9
(b)	the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	2
(iii)	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	2
(iv)	Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	3
2.	Section 18	
	Closing orders on parts of buildings	—
3.	Section 24	
	Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	—
4.	Section 27	
	Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	1
5.	Section 28	
	Closing order revoked and demolition orders substituted	—
6.	Part III	
	Clearance and Re-development	—
7.	Part IV	
	Abatement of Overcrowding	20

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Summary of Slum Clearance since 1955

Closing Orders made	45
Properties improved and Orders terminated	22
Converted to Demolition Orders and demolished	1
Demolished by Owners without Demolition Orders	6
Remaining closed	16
Undertakings accepted	78
(a) to do work	26
(i) Work finished	13
(ii) not yet done	13
(b) Not to use for human habitation	52
Demolition orders made	33
(i) reconstructed	3
(ii) demolished	11
(iii) still standing	16
(iv) used for other purposes	3
Total number dealt with	158
Total brought back into use	46

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Thirty caravan sites throughout the District are licensed for thirty-six caravans. There are no large caravan sites.

Meat

Slaughterhouses

There are two slaughterhouses in the District: one at Newent and one at Dymock, the latter being used only occasionally. All slaughterhouses comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Seven slaughtermen are licensed in the District.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (100% inspected) ..	126	—	3	815	157	—
All disease except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	20	—	1	30	20	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.9	—	33.0	3.7	12.7	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat condemned at slaughterhouses: 320 lbs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that items of food are unfit for human consumption. The following was voluntarily surrendered as unfit during the year:

Frozen Foods 150 lbs.

Ice-Cream

One shop is registered for the making of soft ice-cream and 36 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream (pre-packed in every case).

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Type of Business	Total Number	Number of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	9	9	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops	34	34	This includes sweet shops and chemists shops.
Ice-cream Vendors	36	36	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Butchers Shops ..	6	26	Two Mobile Traders from outside the District are included. Two are registered under S.16 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale).
Fishmongers ..	5	8	(This includes one trader with two Mobile vans). There are two fried fish shops in Newent.
Bakehouses ..	3	3	
Licensed Premises	19	19	All in good hygienic conditions.
Dairies ..	3	3	Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.
Wholesale premises (food manufacture)	2	6	Egg Packing and Poultry Dressing Station.

All the above food premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, i.e. wash-hand basins and facilities for washing food and equipment are provided.

Bed and Breakfast Establishments

Seven premises were visited, five of them farms, producing milk for their own consumption. Samples of milk from these farm premises were taken for testing and found to be satisfactory.

Poultry Dressing Premises

There are two factories carrying out poultry dressing and periodic inspections are made. In one case it was found necessary to ask for improvements to be carried out.

Food Hygiene (Market, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

Eight inspections of delivery vehicles were carried out and no contraventions were found.

Water Supply

No water from wells was analysed. In three cases owners were advised to have mains water laid on, and this was carried out with the aid of Improvement Grants.

Nuisances

No Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances were served, but 27 nuisances were dealt with informally including the following:

A serious nuisance occurred at a large poultry premises. Poultry manure from battery houses was collected wet and dumped into a lagoon. The changeover to a dry method of collection was nearing completion by the end of the year, and this should abate the nuisance.

Two complaints of nuisances from intensive pig breeding premises were dealt with, as also were three further complaints from intensive poultry breeding or egg producing premises.

Factories Act, 1961

Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	25	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	12	—	—
TOTAL	30	37	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ven- tilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	—	—

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Table A. Registrations.

Class of Premises	Premises Registered during the year	Registered Premises at end of year	Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	13	11
Retail Shops	2	26	26
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	—	—
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	2	2
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—

Table B: Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises: 69.

Table C: Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by workplace.

Class of Workplace	Persons Employed
Offices	60
Retail Shops	87
Wholesale departments, warehouses	—
Catering establishments open to the public	5
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	—
Male	63
Female	89
TOTAL	152

Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Seven visits were made; no cause for action was found to be necessary.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

Three hundred and seventeen Land Searches passed through the Department for observation and checking.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are ten producer-retailers and ten distributors registered with the Council. Three outside retailers operate within the District.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no premises in the District to which these Regulations apply.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are no pet shops in the District.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

There are four premises, one at Dymock, one at Bromsberrow, one at Tibberton, and one at Upleadon licensed under this Act.

Game Act, 1831

There are no premises in the District licensed under this Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During the year the following work was carried out:—

		Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1	Number of properties in District	2,782	595
2	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	95	—
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	60	—
	(ii) Mice	3	—
3	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	278	—
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	—	—
	(ii) Mice	—	—

When the Council carries out treatments at private dwellings or business premises at the request of the owner/occupier, charges are made to cover the full cost of treatment, except in the case of old age pensioners.

The Council has no arrangements to carry out disinfection by contract.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No action was found to be necessary.

Clean Air Act, 1956

No action was found to be necessary.

SURVEYOR'S SECTION

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation.

Applications approved:

Conversions	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Standard Grants for improvement of dwellings:							
Applications approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Grants paid after completion of work					..	..	22

Number of amenities provided: baths 20, wash-hand basins 20, sinks 14, hot water systems 21 and water closets 20.

Refuse Collection

There was no change in the year other than bringing into use a new larger compression type vehicle.

Civic Amenties Act

Permission was given for approximately 26 loads of rubbish to be taken privately to the refuse tips.

Satisfactory arrangements were made for a private metal dealer to remove five cars.

Disposal of Noxious Waste

A strict control has always been kept on the use of the Council tips for private tipping. In every case written consent has to be

obtained from the Surveyor's Department. Notices prohibiting unauthorised tipping are also fixed at the tip entrance. There are no factories in the District creating noxious waste.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Eastern Area Sewerage Scheme

Work progressed well on the above Scheme designed to serve parts of the Parishes of Hartpury, Corse, Staunton and Redmarley, and the Parish of Ashleworth in the Gloucester Rural District. The Scheme is expected to be completed by June, 1972.

Upleadon and District and Land Settlement Association Estate

An enquiry into the above scheme was held on the 8th June, and authority to go to tender was received from the Department of the Environment. The whole scheme will cover the following areas: Highleadon, Upleadon, Brand Green, Pool Hill, Scarr Estate, Botloes Green and Ford House. Sewage will be pumped to the Cleve Lane, Newent, Sewage Disposal Works.

Kempley and Dymock

At the end of the year the Council considered a report on the above and agreed a sewerage scheme for Kempley and Fishpool, with a separate sewage treatment works at Kempley.

At Dymock the Sewage Disposal Works needs enlarging or renewing.

The above work is phased to be carried out during 1973/74.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-three licences for bulk storage were issued.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

No licences were issued.

Street Cleansing

The County Council, as Highway Authority, are responsible for sweeping roads and the District Council for providing and emptying litter bins.

Scrap Metal Dealers, Act 1964

Four dealers were registered under this Act.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows on the number of houses completed:—

Parish	1971	Pre-War	Post-War including 1971	Total
Bromsberrow ..	—	6	4	10
Corse	—	6	20	26
Dymock	—	17	57	74
Hartbury	—	10	11	21
Kempley	—	4	12	16
Newent	20	67	264	331
Oxenhall	—	—	6	6
Pauntley	—	—	—	—
Redmarley ..	—	8	16	24
Rudford	—	—	4	4
Staunton	—	6	6	12
Taynton	—	8	7	15
Tibberton	—	2	4	6
Upleadon	—	6	6	12
Totals	20	140	417	557

Applications for Council Accommodation

There were 191 applicants for Council houses at the end of the year.

Private Houses

Forty-seven private houses were erected during the year making a total of seven hundred and twenty-three during the post-war period.

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: W. G. Morgan

Members (at May, 1971): Councillors Miss J. E. Davies, Mrs. T. E. Beddis, C. G. Cooke, A. Cooper, C. J. Cooper, G. S. G. Nash, W. J. Neale, E. S. Morgan, F. D. Smith, W. O. G. Whittington and Rev. D. Williams.

Public Health Staff

Senior Public Health Inspector: W. T. Bebb, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector: J. Buchan, CERT. R. SAN. ASSOC. SCOTLAND.

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector: E. T. Nelmes.

Statistics

Population=17,840 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1971).
Area=24,140 acres.
Number of inhabited dwellings=6,414.
Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1971, was £458,895.
Product of 1p. Rate on the 31st March, 1971, was £4,405.37.
Number of Live Births=280. Number of Deaths=247.
Excess of Births over Deaths=33.
Birth Rate=15.7 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.04 this gives an adjusted rate of 16.3.
The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.02.
Death Rate=13.7 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.97 this gives an adjusted rate of 13.3.
The ratio of this adjusted rate to the national rate is 1.15.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	140	123	263	11	6	17	151	129	280
Still Births	5	—	5	—	—	—	5	—	5
Deaths of infants									
under 1 wk.	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	4
1-4 weeks	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
4 wks.-1 yr.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
WEST DEAN R.D.				
Coleford	3,600	1,193	1,188	—
English Bicknor	455	139	139	—
Lydbrook Parish	2,470	832	818	2
Newland Parish	967	330	319	2
Staunton	210	74	72	—
WEST DEAN PARISH				
Berry Hill	1,780	621	603	—
Bream	2,283	858	845	—
Broadwell	1,578	597	593	—
Ellwood	633	223	222	—
Milkwall	802	257	256	—
Parkend	605	221	221	—
Pillowell	393	148	145	—
Viney Hill	391	145	141	—
Whitecroft	550	216	213	—
Yorkley	1,123	425	424	—
Total W.D. Parish	10,138	3,711	3,663	—
Total West Dean Rural District	17,840	6,279	6,199	4

Mr. E. T. Nelmes supplied me with the number of dwellings and the properties connected to the mains water supply for the above table.

Caravans

Parish	Number of Caravans			
	Licensed	Exempt from Licensing	Connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
WEST DEAN R.D.				
Coleford	37	—	37	—
English Bicknor	2	—	2	—
Lydbrook Parish	3	1	3	—
Newland Parish	2	—	2	—
Staunton	—	—	—	—
WEST DEAN PARISH				
Berry Hill	19	3	19	—
Bream	4	—	3	1
Broadwell	5	3	5	—
Ellwood	7	2	7	—
Milkwall	37	1	37	—
Parkend	—	1	—	—
Pillowell	1	—	1	—
Viney Hill	1	3	1	—
Whitecroft	—	—	—	—
Yorkley	2	1	2	—
Total W.D. Parish	76	14	75	1
Total West Dean Rural District	120	15	119	1

Mr. Nelmes was responsible for this table.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. T. Bebb reports as follows:

Housing

Slum Clearance—Housing Act, 1957. Action taken during 1971

1. Sections 16/17

(i) (a)	Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	.. .. .	7
(b)	Houses in respect of which demolition orders were substituted after violation of undertakings		—
(ii)	Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:		
(a)	the houses would not be used for human habitation	.. .. .	—
(b)	the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	.. .. .	3

(iii)	Houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	6
(iv)	Houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses made fit	2
2.	Section 18	
	Closing orders on parts of buildings	—
3.	Section 24	
	Demolition orders revoked after houses involved had been made fit	4
4.	Section 27	
	Closing orders determined after premises had been made fit	4
5.	Section 28	
	Closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	—
6.	Part III	
	Clearance and Re-development	—
7.	Part IV	
	Abatement of Overcrowding	—

Demolition of Condemned Properties

Seventeen houses were demolished during the year and many others were in various stages of demolition when the year ended.

One house was demolished in default of action by the owner.

Housing Programmes

At the beginning of 1971 the Council agreed to include a total of 100 houses in their third Slum Clearance Programme, all to be dealt with within a period of four years.

By the end of the year 45 of these had been condemned.

The following is a summary of action taken since the commencement of the First Programme in 1955.

Dealt with

1.	Subject to demolition orders	324
2.	Subject to closing orders	134
3.	Subject to undertakings	
	(a) to repair	30
	(b) not to use	14
4.	In clearance areas	23
5.	By certificate of M.O.H. (Council owned)	8
6.	By agreement (Crown owned)	6
7.	In programmes but dealt with unofficially	49
		<hr/> 588 <hr/>

Renovated

8.	Demolition orders revoked after properties were made fit	39
9.	Closing order determined after properties were made fit	22

10.	Undertakings cancelled after properties were made fit	29
11.	In programme but made fit without formal action ..	47
		<hr/> 137 <hr/>
Demolished		
12.	Demolished since 1955 (but not necessarily condemned since that date)	394
Still Standing		
13.	Properties still standing (some condemned before 1955)	
(i)	Subject to demolition orders	92
(ii)	Subject to closing orders	72
(iii)	Subject to undertakings ..	
	(a) to repair	6
	(b) not to use	16
(iv)	In clearance areas	22
		<hr/> 208 <hr/>
14.	Of the 208 properties still standing the following are, for various reasons, still occupied:	
(i)	Subject to demolition orders	18
(ii)	Subject to closing orders	5
(iii)	Subject to undertakings ..	
	(a) to repair	1
	(b) not to use	2
(iv)	In clearance areas	2
		<hr/> 28 <hr/>

Housing Act 1969

During the year four applications for qualification certificates were received, one being refused because of the unsatisfactory condition of the property. The owner was interviewed prior to his application being considered by the Council, but he was unwilling at that time to carry out the works necessary for the issue of a qualification certificate.

One certificate of provisional approval was granted during the year.

Improvement Grants

During the year, thirty-eight properties were inspected following enquiries regarding Standard Grants. In all but four of these cases additional repair work was required to ensure that the properties would be considered fit for not less than fifteen years.

These inspections are carried out in conjunction with the Engineer and Surveyor's staff, who deal also with all applications for Discretionary Grants.

In addition to the foregoing visits, work on the improvement of dwellings with the aid of Standard Grants was inspected in thirty-four cases and found to be satisfactorily completed.

Water Supply

Routine sampling is regularly undertaken by the North West Gloucestershire Water Board and the results notified to the Medical Officer of Health. Consequently, it was not considered necessary to take any water samples during the year.

Milk and Dairies

Register of Dairies

Two additional dairies were registered during the year bringing the total of registered premises to eight. This figure does not, of course, include dairies situate at dairy farms which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Register of Milk Distributors

Number on Register at beginning of 1971	..	..	16
Removed from the Register during the year	..	..	1
Added to the Register during the year	..	..	1
Total number of registered distributors	..	..	16

Milk is also retailed in the District by a number of distributors operating from premises in adjoining local authority areas. In addition nine dairy farms retail milk in the District.

Ice-Cream

Register of Ice-Cream premises

Number on Register at beginning of 1971	..	..	96
Removed from the Register during the year	..	..	7
Added to the Register during the year	..	..	10
Total number of registered distributors	..	..	99

Of this total three premises are registered for manufacture, two for storage only and the remainder for storage and sale.

Food Hygiene

The following is a brief analysis of the food premises in the District:

Category	Number	Number fitted to comply with Regulation 16*	Number fitted to comply with Regulation 19†
Bakers	5	5	5
Butchers	14	14	14
Caterers	22	22	22
Chemist	3	3	2
Fish and Chip Fryers ..	5	5	5
Fishmongers	1	1	1
General Shopkeepers ..	74	74	74
Grocers	28	28	28
Sweet Shopkeepers ..	5	5	5
Totals	157	157	156

*Regulation 16 relates to the provision of personal washing facilities and

†Regulation 19 relates to the provision of facilities for washing equipment and food.

All the premises to which these Regulations apply are fitted to comply therewith.

During the year, the majority of food premises in the District were inspected and the overall standard of hygiene continued to be satisfactory. As always, however, there were a number of premises where conditions were in need of improvement. All premises were equipped to comply with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations but in some instances bad housekeeping resulted in untidy premises where cleanliness and stock control were almost impossible to achieve.

Present-day tendencies towards the pre-packaging of more and more foodstuffs has reduced the risk of casual contamination, and most grocery shops are now equipped with refrigerated cabinets for the storage and display of cooked meats and other perishable goods. In the average grocery shop there are probably two principal factors which may result in contamination and deterioration of food. In the case of cooked meats, these are, of course, susceptible to bacterial contamination during handling and slicing prior to serving. Most traders, and equally important many customers, are well aware of the potential risks in handling cooked meats and consequently considerable care is exercised during the operation. Shopkeepers are also advised by this Department with regard to the siting of slicing machines in order to eliminate the risk of contamination by customers sneezing and coughing in close proximity to the machines.

Perhaps the one factor, which is responsible more than any other for the deterioration of foodstuffs in shops, is lack of adequate stock rotation. Many shopkeepers will not make the effort to devise a coding system for foodstuffs to enable them to record the date of delivery and few are familiar with the manufacturers' coded date stamps. In spite of the disadvantages which are acknowledged in respect of uncoded date stamping it is felt that the general introduction of this procedure by all food manufacturers would on the whole benefit both the shopkeeper and the public.

Meat and Other Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs were inspected at various premises in the District and found to be unfit for human consumption for the reasons stated:—

28 lbs. cod fillets	..	..	..	decomposition
30 bars Chocolate	..	..	..	contamination by mice

7 packets biscuits	..	..	..	contamination by mice
1-10 lb. can cooked ham	..	..	..	decomposition
28 lbs. cod fillets	..	..	..	decomposition
26 lbs. steak	..	..	..	decomposition
2 lbs. 12 oz. lard	..	..	..	taint
6 lbs. margarine	..	..	..	taint
124 ice lollies and ice-cream blocks	..	..	..	rise in temperature (refrigerator break-down)

Total weight of foodstuffs surrendered: 1 cwt. 24 lbs. approximately.

Three complaints were received from members of the public regarding foodstuffs found to be unfit for consumption after purchase:

1. A bottle of pasteurised milk was found to have a number of insects adhering to the inside of the bottle. It was thought that these were a species of fruit fly although positive identification was not possible. The owner of the dairy was unable to account for the presence of the insects in the bottle but he did allege that similar insects were occasionally found in new bottles arriving at the dairy from the manufacturers.
2. A can of stewed steak contained what appeared to be a small piece of hide with hair adhering to it. This was believed to be a "hair cyst" and the attention of the manufacturers was drawn to the incident. The company, based in the Republic of Ireland, apologised for the occurrence and pointed out the difficulties in detecting this type of object during canning.
3. A meat pasty, purchased at a local shop, was found to be extensively affected by mould. The proprietor of the shop was unable to confirm the date on which she had obtained the pasty from the wholesaler but the code number on the wrapping showed that the pasty was three weeks old at the time of the retail sale. The facts were reported to the Public Health Committee and it was decided to prosecute the retailer under Section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act. At Coleford Magistrates Court, the retailer entered a plea of "not guilty" but the case was found proved and the defendant was fined £5 with £17.28 costs.

Slaughterhouses

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District and therefore no routine meat inspection is carried out. Retail butchers occasionally request examination of meat in their shops if they have reason to suspect an abnormal condition, but no such requests were received during the year.

Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961:

The projected Southern Area Sewerage Scheme has been approved in final detail and it is expected that tenders for Stage I of this Scheme will be received during the summer of 1972. In many of the

areas, which will be served by the new sewerage system, there are, at present, considerable difficulties in relation to septic tank effluent disposal. These difficulties result from a variety of causes, principally the unsuitable nature of the subsoil and the gradients of the land in certain areas. The majority of these problems are resolved without recourse to formal action although in many cases the only possible solutions can at best be regarded as temporary. It is anticipated that a considerable improvement to the environment will be achieved when the new sewerage scheme becomes operative.

Factories Act, 1961
Part 1

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	14	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	65	14	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ven-tilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drain-age of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven-iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—

Section 8

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1971	65
Premises added to Register during the year	1
Premises removed from the Register during the year ..	1
Number of registered factory premises at the end of 1971	65

Section 133

The number of outworkers totalled 128, of whom 127 were employed by a local metal fastener manufacturing company and one by a rubber moulding industry, whose premises are situated in an adjoining District.

General

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Section 25

Details from Register of Site Licences

Number on Register at the end of 1970	60
Removed from Register at the end of 1970 because of expiry of licence	13
On Register at the commencement of 1971	47
Registered (including renewals) during 1971	12
Expired during 1971	—
On Register at the end of 1971	59

Including:

Holiday Sites	2
Residential Sites	57

The 57 residential site licences authorise the stationing of 132 caravans. The maximum number of caravans known to have occupied these sites during 1971 was 120.

First Schedule (Paragraph 1)

Fifteen caravans claimed exemption under this clause.

Two caravans were illegally occupying sites where licences had expired when the year ended.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949-54

Summary of activities during 1971:

Type of Premises treated	Number of Premises treated	Type of Infestation	
		Rats	Mice
Agricultural	1	1	—
Business	19	12	7
Domestic	125	113	12
Local Authority	4	4	—
	149	130	19

The above table excludes the spring and autumn maintenance treatments to the Coleford Old Culverts and the Greathough Brook, where the latter courses through the Village of Lydbrook.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations, 1968

The number of vehicles which had to be dealt with during the year showed a marked decrease compared with the 1970 figures. Recurring offenders were involved in most of the action necessary.

Number of abandoned vehicles removed in default following service of notices	—
Number of abandoned vehicles removed by owners be- fore the expiration of the notices served	10
Number of abandoned vehicles removed as a result of informal action	6
Number of abandoned vehicles owned by Council House tenants, or abandoned on Council owned land, following action by Housing Officer	2

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

The number of scrap metal dealers registered with the Council was reduced to ten, one of the dealers having removed to new premises in an adjoining area.

Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry-dressing establishments in the District.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Most of the agricultural units in the District are relatively small, employing only one or two farmworkers, if any. There is practically no influx of seasonal workers and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided where required.

Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide

Number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit..	51
Number of premises licensed to store calcium carbide ..	—

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

No applications for licences to slaughter animals were received during the year.

Game Act, 1831

No dealers' licences under this Act were issued during the year.

Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926

A large number of enquiries relating to Official Searches were received during the year. In many cases inspection of the property was necessitated.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence was issued during the year, authorising the use of premises in Coleford as a pet shop.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

One licence, subject to the Council's standard conditions, was issued to an applicant at Joyford, authorising the use of premises as boarding kennels for dogs.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

In the course of the year over 100 visits were made to registered premises for the purpose of routine inspections and advisory visits. No significant contravention of the Act was found.

Practically all the registered premises in the District are of conventional construction and no difficulties appertaining to any particular class of premises have been encountered.

Very little dangerous machinery is in use in registered premises, this being restricted mainly to food slicing machines in food shops.

One aspect of enforcement which continues to give cause for concern is the complete lack of notifiable accident reports. Although verbal and printed reminders have been issued to all employers on this matter no notifications have been received. It is, of course, possible that no notifiable accidents have occurred, but this appears to be improbable when one considers that well over three million man-hours have been worked in registered premises in this District since the Act came into operation.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No major problems were encountered in the operation of the weekly kerbside refuse collection. Minor difficulties occasionally arose mainly on account of absence of employees because of sickness. However, the temporary loan of employees from the Surveyor's Department and the co-operation of the other refuse collection crews enabled the service to be maintained at all times.

The disused quarry at Cannop Road continues to provide excellent refuse disposal facilities and is likely to do so for several years. Direct incineration of combustible materials, as the refuse is being tipped, reduces the risk of spontaneous combustion in the future and, of course, provides more tipping space in addition to reducing the number of flies present on the tip in the summer months.

The relative isolation of the tip allows this practice to be carried out without resultant nuisance.

Clean Air Act, 1956

Only one complaint was received regarding smoke nuisance during the year. This related to smoke produced by garden bonfires which was causing nuisance to the occupants of the adjoining property. The nuisance was remedied by informal action.

A number of complaints were received regarding the emission of dust from stone-crushing and drying plant at local quarries. Close liaison was maintained with the District Alkali Inspector from the time he assumed responsibility in these matters.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

One complaint was received regarding noise resulting from stone-processing at a local quarry on Sundays. Investigations indicate that no statutory nuisance was being created.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. H. Parks, B.E.M., C.ENG., F.I.MUN.E., F.INST.P.H.E.,
M.INST.H.E., reports as follows:—

1. Housing

The number of new Council houses erected was as follows:—

	Bungalows		Houses	
	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
Edge End	4		2	
Yorkley	4			6
Broadwell	6	2		
Joys Green ..		12		
Bream		6	2	6
Total	14	20	4	12

Considerable progress was made in the demolition of the two bedroom type aluminium pre-fabricated bungalows, and during the year a total of 66 bungalows were demolished after tenants had been rehoused.

There still remained, at the end of the year, further demolition to be done on all the four sites, but this was either in hand or awaiting the completion of substitute dwellings for the displacement of tenants.

In addition to the demolition of pre-fabricated bungalows, the Council also cleared the remaining nine huts and ancillary buildings at the old Prisoner of War Camp at Wynols Hill, Broadwell, and the position now at this Camp is that all 38 base slabs and foundations of demolished huts remain to be dealt with, together with the sub-standard roads, footpaths, drains and sewers, before any further housing development can take place on this site.

On the modernisation of Council houses, the Council have, during the year, been dealing with 169 dwellings as follows:—

Coleford, Sunny Bank	50
Parkend Road, Bream	38
Highbury Road, Bream	1
Barn Hill and Woodville Avenue, Broadwell	38
Slade Road and Severn View Road, Yorkley	42
	169

Of the above modernisations, 95 were completed.

So far as private housing was concerned, the Council received applications for 30 Discretionary Grants and 80 Standard Grants,

together also with 19 applications for loans for house purchase, and 21 applications for loans for house improvements.

The financial commitment in respect of grants amounted to £38,651 and in respect of loans to £55,030.

During 1971 plans were approved for 109 new dwellings and 191 improvements to existing dwellings.

Mention was made in my notes for 1970 of the Council's project for the provision of grouped accommodation at Sparrow Hill, and I am pleased to be able to say that during 1971 the Council accepted tenders for the erection of 10 one bedroom flats, 16 one bedroom bungalows and one Warden's house, with a communal hall, laundry room and guest room.

In addition to the special project for grouped accommodation at Coleford, the Council is particularly sensitive to those cases where tenants, perhaps elderly, and perhaps living on their own, are also invalid, and in seven separate cases the Council have either constructed access ramps for wheelchairs, or second downstairs toilets, or fixed handrails on staircases, or even, in one case, arranged for a power supply to an outside invalid chair garage (so that the battery of this battery driven chair can be kept charged). As well as the foregoing cases, there are two special cases where there is a spastic child in the house, and in these two cases the Council have designed, and are building, special houses exclusively to meet the requirements of these two families.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Northern Area

The routine maintenance of sewers and treatment works in the northern area has not presented any unusual factors, except in one case where the sewage pumping main became fractured and had to be dealt with as an emergency.

On the disposal of sludge there were 115 tons of dried sludge disposed of at the Council's quarry at Cannop.

At the treatment works at Lydbrook, further work has been done on the provision and fixing of safety rails and ladders at the various tanks and stepped pathways.

Apart from new dwellings constructed, or existing dwellings modernised, all of which would be connected to the sewers, where possible, there was one further connection to the sewers in the northern area.

Reference to the Annual Report for 1970 will show that the Council was actively considering the need to lay sewers in English Bicknor and also to deal with trade discharge from Temco Limited and Reed Corrugated Cases Limited.

Permission was received to go ahead with the English Bicknor Sewerage Scheme during the year and a start was made in December on a scheme costing approximately £58,000, the sewers from this scheme to be connected with an outfall sewer to the treatment works at Lydbrook.

During the year the Council's Consulting Engineers submitted proposals for dealing with the trade effluent discharge from Temco Limited and from Reed Corrugated Cases Limited, as well as for dealing with the provision of sewerage to certain parts of Lydbrook (Forge Hill, Waters Cross, Church Hill, Hangerberry, etc.) which had not previously been sewered.

The scheme proposed is for the enlargement of the treatment works, the laying of a sewer extension, the laying of a new and enlarged pumping main, and the provision of new pumps and equipment in the sewage pumping station at Lower Lydbrook. The proposals are designed to deal with a total dry weather flow of 140,010 gallons per day from a total population of 3,004, plus the trade discharges mentioned, together with the domestic discharge from the Reed Corrugated Cases factory.

The trade discharge from Temco will gravitate naturally to the Lower Lydbrook sewage pumping station, but that derived from Reed Corrugated Cases will have to be pumped to the sewage treatment works, and for this purpose it is intended to provide ejector stations at the factory premises.

The effluent from the Reed Corrugated Cases factory will be of an exceedingly starchy nature by reason of the various trade processes, and because of this the trade discharge will be pre-treated in high rate biological filters before being passed forward with normal domestic sewage into the settling tanks and other processes of the treatment works. It is intended that 50% of the total effluent from the Lydbrook treatment works will be recirculated for further treatment.

So far as sludge is concerned, wherever this exceeds the capacity of the existing drying beds it will be "tankered" to the Newland treatment works where it is proposed to install sludge presses—described in the latter part of these notes concerning pollution control proposals in the central area.

Central Area

As with the northern area there have not been any unusual circumstances in the routine maintenance of the sewers and treatment works, except for the need to relay a certain length of the Beecham factory sewer. There was cross contamination between the foul sewer and the storm sewer causing pollution of the Whitecliff brook, and at the end of the year arrangements were being made to have this work put in hand.

At the Newland treatment works it has been necessary to carry out certain renovations on the sludge conveyors and to provide new sludge conveyor belts, but this is normal routine maintenance.

Additionally, and as with the Lydbrook treatment works, the opportunity has been taken to provide further ladders and handrails to stepped pathways and tanks for safety purposes.

From the Newland treatment works a total of 1,160 tons of dry sludge (derived partly from the southern area as wet sludge) have

been taken away for weathering treatment and final disposal in the Council's sludge tip at Cannop, as well as the disposal of 502,500 gallons of wet sludge which has been disposed of on farm land.

I said in my notes for 1970 that a completely satisfactory solution had not yet been found to the problem of sludge disposal, and I am still in that same difficulty. It seems, however, that there might well be a possibility of the disposal of dried sludge in the reclamation of parts of quarries where it is now becoming a condition of planning consent that the finished working areas shall be covered with soil and planted. For this purpose and bearing in mind the usually poor quality of top soil, arrangements are being made to mix dried sludge therewith.

On the matter of minor sewer extensions and residential development in the central area, the Council received a proposal from one developer for the provision of 27 new dwellings at Coalway and after some consideration the Council agreed to take over the developers sewers and low level pumping station on satisfactory completion.

Further extensive proposals for residential development in the Coleford area are being received and this is a matter to which some considerable care and thought will have to be given in the very near future. The present network, both of foul sewers, and of storm sewers and culverts, in the Coleford Town are all running very much to full capacity. This will most certainly be true of foul sewers when all those proposed in the central area schemes have been laid. So far as the Coleford culverts are concerned, it will be necessary, within a very short space of time, to devise some further network of storm culvert by-passes in order to ensure that residential development, whether it be private or Council development, can continue in the natural evolution of Coleford.

In July 1971 the Council's Consultants produced their Report and Scheme for dealing with pollution control in the central area and reported accordingly to the Council.

The scheme comprises the following:—

- | | | |
|-----------|-----|--|
| Stage I | (A) | to comprise the immediate construction of sludge pressing plant at Newland |
| | (B) | to comprise sewerage extensions at Coleford (Hillersland, Short Standing, Joyford, Christchurch, Ninewells, Mile End, Broadwell Lane End, Marian's Walk, Lower Berry Hill, Crow Ash, but excluding connection of Christchurch camping ground). |
| Stage II | (A) | to comprise the construction of extensions to the sewage disposal works at Newland to deal with the 1985 population and flow |
| | (B) | to comprise the duplication of the upper length of Coleford outfall sewer (Newland Village to storm overflow manhole), the enlargement of sewers in Coleford Town, also connection of the Christchurch camping ground. |
| Stage III | | to comprise the sewerage of the four Villages of Redbrook (Upper and Lower), Newland, Staunton and Clearwell. |

- Stage IV to comprise the construction of further extension of sewage disposal works at Newland to cater for the post 1985 population and flow, also alteration of the storm overflow at manhole 38, to comply with the latest River Authority requirement, and triplication of the outfall sewer below Newland Village.
- Stage V to comprise sewerage of the remainder of the central area (Scowles, Braceland, Edge End, Crossways).

The Council accepted all the foregoing schemes and asked the Consulting Engineers to prepare them for early submission to the County Council and the Department of the Environment.

Southern Area

A start has not yet been made on the actual construction of sewers and pumping stations on the proposed southern area scheme, and in the meantime I am having to cope to the best extent possible with the existing small housing act disposal works at Sling, Bream, Parkend, Whitecroft, Pillowell and Yorkley, of which there are 12.

Considerable difficulty has, in fact, been experienced throughout the year in maintaining these small works in an efficient condition and it is almost impossible to obtain an effluent of the River Authority's required standard from any of them, despite the fact that in 3 of the 12 I have incorporated upward flow clarifiers in the humus tanks and in another one (Lydney Road, Bream), I have also incorporated recirculation.

The main difficulty with these small works is that at times of the 24 hours there is no flow at all, whilst at other times there is somewhat more than is desirable. This is due, of course, to normal domestic usage of water at different times of the day. In the periods between "none at all" and "too much" there is inevitably a spell when sewage is dribbling through the filter beds but is not of a sufficient flow to operate the distributor mechanism. The result is that an appreciable amount of sewage passes through the filter beds at one location causing insufficient biological treatment. It is hoped that the southern area scheme will soon commence. In the meantime, the biological filter bed media had to be renewed (or partly renewed) at three of the small treatment works.

During 1971 a total of 352,500 gallons of wet sludge were "tan-kered" from the southern area for disposal either on farm land or for drying at the Newland works.

Generally

Considerable use has been made of the Council's own laboratory at the Newland treatment works in the central area, and in order to keep a close watch on the efficiency or otherwise of the various treatment works (particularly the small works), samples have been taken by our own Supervisor as follows:—

	Samples examined in R.D.C. Laboratory	Examined by River Authority	Examined in Bristol Public Health Laboratory
Newland	6	5	
Lydbrook	3	2	
Yorkley Slade	3		2
Lower Yorkley	2		1
Whitcroft (Oxigest) ..	6		
Whitcroft (Park Hill) ..	4		1
Bream (Pastors Hill) ..	1		1
Bream (Lydney Road) ..	29	6	19
Bream (Bowson Road) ..	4		5
Sling	9	2	5
Clearwell (Wainland) ..		3	
Clearwell (Lower)		1	
Total	67	19	34

Of the samples in the above table quite a proportion of those taken from the small disposal works were unsatisfactory, but this was known at the time of sampling and, indeed, the samples were taken really as "trouble shooting samples" and examined in an endeavour to locate the reason for the inefficiency.

In a further attempt to concentrate more care and effort into the supervision of the small disposal works, it became necessary during the year to ask the Council to make alternative arrangements for rodent control so as to release my employees from this duty and give them more time on sewage works supervision.

In 1971 the first of a series of sewer safety lectures and training sessions was commenced, the sessions continuing for 1½ hours each week for approximately 13 weeks.

The Medical Officer of Health was kind enough to spare time to take two of the training sessions for me and to talk to the men on First-Aid and Personal Hygiene as well as to give them practical training.

All the sewer men have been registered with their own doctors as being concerned in work in which they are susceptible to leptospiral jaundice. The men have been given special medical cards to carry with them and to show their own doctor should they have any reason to attend him.

Included amongst the various items of safety equipment which the Council have purchased is a British Oxygen "Minute Man"

resuscitation apparatus and rules have been laid down that the employees are not to enter sewers or other high risk situations without having this equipment with them and without having “top men” as safety precautions.

The training has been extremely well received and has proved of considerable interest to the men, especially in the use of the resuscitation apparatus, methods of casualty handling and the use of gas detector lamps and equipment.

HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed:—

Council Houses

Parish	1971	Pre-War	Post-War including 1971	Total
Coleford	—	166	281	447
English Bicknor	—	8	16	24
Staunton	—	—	11	11
Newland				
Clearwell	—	10	18	28
Redbrook	—	34	—	34
Lydbrook				
Lydbrook	—	52	38	90
Joys Green	12	20	139	159
West Dean				
Berry Hill	6	50	88	138
Bream	14	80	181	261
Broadwell	9	64	86	150
Ellwood	—	6	20	26
Milkwall	—	6	38	44
Parkend	—	12	53	65
Pillowell	—	12	—	12
Viney Hill	—	—	—	—
Whitcroft	—	30	46	76
Yorkley	10	42	87	129
Totals	51	592	1,102	1,694

During the year a further 45 Aluminium bungalows due for demolition were vacated and the tenants rehoused in new replacement dwellings, leaving 18 bungalows of the original 100 erected in 1948 to be replaced.

Fifty new dwellings were completed and occupied during 1971. Fourteen of these were one bedroom type bungalows which were let to tenants of pensionable age, or to tenants suffering physical handicap.

In addition to the number of dwellings set out above, the Council own six other units of accommodation, all of which are occupied.

Private Houses

Seventy-seven were completed during the year, making a total of 997 during the post-war period.

Applicants for Council Accommodation

There were 370 applicants for Council houses, 130 of whom were pensioners asking for the tenancies of Old Persons Bungalows.

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